



Library of Sheldon Jackson
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1880

Sheldon Jackson's Book - ALASKA &
MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST
Fully illustrated . 12mo pp327.
New York : Dodd, Mead & Company.

received 75 reviews from Religious
periodicals & 70 reviews from secular
newspapers & periodicals.

Reviews came from London, Canada,
New Zealand, New England & the
Atlantic Seaboard, the Pacific Coast
and places in between.

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THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Fully illustrated. 12mo, pp. 327. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. 1880.

The most ubiquitous man, in the American Presbyterian ministry, is the Rev. author of this book. His home is Denver, Col., but we should judge that it is about the last place in which to look for him. Now we are grasping his hand in Centre Street, New York; presently he is exploring the wilds of Utah; then he is investigating the Aztecs, and climbing up their singular habitations; next he is scaling the Rocky Mountains, and hunting up the lost sheep in the wilderness of Idaho; and, having a few idle days on hand, he must needs bend his steps to the vast archipelago of Alaska. So, on the 10th of August, 1877, he finds himself at Fort Wrangel. Returning to the East he published, first in his own monthly sheet, the *Rocky Mountain Presbyterian* (for he is an editor withal), and then in the other religious papers of the denomination, glowing accounts of what he has seen and heard, as one has described it: "a paradise for the naturalist, a happy hunting-ground for the ethnologist, and a new and boundless field for the geologist," to say nothing of the agriculturist.

Once more, "armed with a little brief authority," as an agent of the U. S. Government, he finds his way with Secretary Kendall, "the Big Chief," in the summer of 1879, to the same Hesperides, threading the sinuosities of Puget Sound, and reaching, July 21st, the familiar post of Fort Wrangel, and then pushing his way north through the longest stretch of inland navigation on the sea-coast of any country in the world.

What he saw and heard, as a faithful editor he puts in print; and his fervent appeals wake up the dormant energies of the Church in behalf of this remotest of our American possessions—so far away that San Francisco is but the half-way house to its *ultima thule*. The winter finds him at home, and he gathers up his fugitive editorials, which, with a well-condensed introduction of statistics gathered from authentic sources, he publishes in a book, "with numerous illustrations and his own speaking portrait." Such is the book before us. We welcome it as "good news from a far country." It will help, we trust, to stir up the churches to a new and lively interest in our missions there, and to plant on those hyperborean shores the foundations of many generations.

E. F. H.

NEW YORK OBSERVER

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Company. *N.Y. Observer.*

Christian enterprise furnishes us with this excellent volume upon the strangest, remotest, and wildest region of this vast Republic. No reader can fail to obtain from this book much definite information in regard to the climate, scenery, and geographical features of Alaska, as well as clear impressions in respect to the population, their mode of living, and what has been done and is doing for their enlightenment and elevation. So closely associated in these days are knowledge of the world we live in and the advancement of Christ's kingdom, that we may safely say that this book of Dr. Jackson's on Christian Missions in Alaska will do more to make this region known among the people of the country, than any other publication that has yet appeared.

Herald and Presbyterian.

J. G. Monfort, F. C. Monfort, E. R. Monfort
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS,
C. E. BABB, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. Cloth. 12mo. 327 pp. Price \$1.25. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

This book seems well calculated to supply the existing lack of popular information concerning this part of the American republic. The country, its extent, natural phenomena, resources, population, etc., are thoroughly discussed. The social and religious status of the people is minutely and graphically detailed and the present condition of missionary enterprises described. Old traditions and heathenish customs are presented and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is demonstrated, as its influence is traced in the modified and converted lives of these degraded savages. The illustrations are numerous and clear.

THE OCCIDENT.

FOR CHRIST AND HIS CAUSE.

THE OCCIDENT

Is published every Wednesday

At 757 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal.

C. E. BABB and J. B. POAGE, Editors.

C. A. POAGE, Editor and Publisher.

ALASKA. Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, Publishers.

This is a book of great interest, especially to those interested in the cause of missions. Dr. Jackson is well known as the editor of the "Rocky Mountain Presbyterian," and the most indefatigable home mission worker in the Presbyterian church. He has immense pluck and endurance, and has traveled extensively over the whole western half of the continent. The doctor is not only a good traveler and explorer, but can well describe what he has seen, and the localities he has visited. With Alaska, our people on this coast are somewhat familiar; but we know just enough to wish to know much more. A large amount of reliable information can be found in this work, and not a few facts of interest to all classes. Alaska is rich in mines, and is the great fur-producing country of the continent. Our business men will be pleased to receive information concerning the commercial prospects of this land. The book, however, is largely taken up in giving an account of the Indians; their strange customs; their disposition; their practices and habits; and this will be interesting reading to all classes who are fond of travels; and Christian people will read with much pleasure the accounts of mission work and experience among these tribes of the north.

Alaska and Missions on the North American Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

Having traveled through Alaska, and witnessed the degradation and horrid ceremonies of the natives, the author of this book is able to give a perfectly clear and truthful report of life in Alaska. The book is an exceedingly interesting one, giving descriptions of the land and country, the habits and customs of the natives. The great good done by the missionaries who have been sent there; the importance of the work; and the need of assistance to carry on the work so well begun; are set forth. It seems impossible that any one could read this book without interest.

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In the former of my letters which did not appear I spoke of the success of Dr. Westwood's labors in the Central Church, Denver, who is really a wonderful worker; and also of that wonderful work of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, "Alaska," that should be in the hands of every child in America. Many of the truths in regard to that unknown land seem like the wildest romance. Who, for instance, that has not investigated the subject, would think of San Francisco being the central point between the East and West possessions of the United States, or that in part of the year the sun shines a full hour on western Alaska, after it has arisen on eastern Maine; or that there are great valleys in Alaska whose summers are like Minnesota and winters like Georgia and whose average climate is that of Washington City; or that there are valleys in Alaska whose tropical vegetation equals that of Central America. Messrs. Editors, please advise your readers to buy the book.

J. Y. C.
CHEYENNE, WY., August, 24, 1880.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE:

- Dodd & Mead, of New York, have just sent out two volumes which all interested in Christian missions, or in travels in lands but little known, will be glad to see. The first is Dr. Sheldon Jackson's volume on "Alaska," in which he gives a full account of missions on the north-west coast. Dr. Jackson gives the results of his own observations, and of a very careful investigation into the habits of the Indians of Alaska, which certainly reveals great ignorance and degradation. He writes, however, in the interest of these poor people, and in the hope that they may be civilized and enlightened, and therefore writes in behalf of missions among them, reciting what has been done, and the reasons for more diligent and extended work. Alaska is an

Congregationalist,

Two books lie before us which we recommend cordially for the Sabbath school library. They will be read with interest, and are full of novel and useful facts.

One is *Alaska*. It is by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D., well known to many of our readers as a Presbyterian clergyman and missionary. It gives a full but reasonably condensed account of this vast and distant land which the United States bought of Russia a few years ago. Its appearance, people, climate, customs, productions, mineral resources, etc., are described graphically, and then follows a minute and touching history of the mission work which has been begun there, and which already has been very fruitful. The book is illustrated abundantly and well, and it is suited to the old and young alike. The comparative apathy of the Christian church in our country to the needs of Alaska, over which we now, as a nation, have assumed responsibility, needs to be, and will be, dispelled by such stirring books as this. Before many years the manifold resources of Alaska will attract a large and active population. Christians must make haste to plant the gospel there at once, and this volume suggests the way. [Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.]

ST. LOUIS EVANGELIST

J. W. ALLEN, D. D., EDITOR.

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

S. J. NICCOLLS, D.D.

J. G. REASER, D.D.

W. C. FALCONER, D.D.

On eighth page will be found a notice of Dr. Sheldon Jackson's Book on Alaska. Although the work has been out less than two months, a second edition has been published to supply the demand.

ALASKA and its resources as well as its people and their customs are admirably set forth in Rev. Sheldon Jackson's book, recently issued by Dodd, Mead & Co. But the chief design of the volume is to stir up greater interest in the work of missions for that far away land. He tells us of the degradation of the inhabitants, especially the women; of the commencement of Presbyterian missions and of their work. In fact, the whole volume of 325 pages is well filled with information gathered from the personal observation of the author and from the most authentic sources. The citizen as well as the Christian should read the book, that he may know more of his country and of his work in its evangelization. The book is one of great interest, and may be had by addressing this office. Price \$1.50.

WHEN Alaska was purchased it was called Wm. H. Seward's folly. People said it was absurd that those Arctic regions should ever be of any value to this country. But the matter wears a different aspect now, when, a few little islands alone are bringing to the government, an income of over \$300,000, as royalty on furs, when its industries of lumber, mining, fish, etc., are developed, the revenue will speedily pay both principal and interest of the purchase price.

When Dr. Sheldon Jackson and Mrs. McFarland set foot on those shores to establish Presbyterian Missions, the whole matter was a subject of ridicule, even by a portion of our religious press. But now, when schools and churches are established and hundreds are being reclaimed from paganism, the Church is ready to say what a shame that a field so ripe for the harvest, should have been so long neglected. The pioneers in this mission did not have to wait long for the verdict of their countrymen, that they had done wisely. Instead of ridiculing the actors, the Church is ashamed that she did not sooner put forth an effort to civilize and christianize this portion of our land. The women of the southwest are especially interested in this region, because they have made themselves responsible for the support of one of the missionary teachers.

We have been greatly interested in reading Dr. Jackson's book on Alaska, published by Dodd, Mead & Co., and which has already been noticed in our columns. The work has already passed through several editions, and is worthy of being still more widely circulated. It is not a work of romance; but one filled with thrilling interest, not only to the friends of missions, but to those who may wish to know more about that far-away part of our domain. Price, \$1.50.

THE NEW YORK EVANGELIST.

No. 5 Beekman Street.

HENRY M. FIELD, Editor and Proprietor.

Evenings with Authors.

ALASKA AND ITS MISSIONS.

Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D., our zealous and faithful Presbyterian missionary, has produced a work on Alaska which will give most readers a new impression of the area and importance of that territory, and of the promising missions established there. To most persons, even those of intelligence, Alaska is a *terra incognita*. They can hardly mention it without a sneer, as a country which our Government was tricked into buying chiefly for diplomatic considerations which the average intellect cannot estimate, but utterly worthless for practical purposes, unless at some future day it should be deemed advisable to utilize it as a sort of Botany Bay for troublesome politicians. Yet the acquisition of that territory was urged by the late Senator Sumner in one of his most elaborate and learned speeches, and Secretary Seward declared that he considered the purchase of Alaska the most important act of his official life.

There is a strong presumption against the country on account of its high northern latitude, as though it must have an arctic climate. But this natural inference is not sustained by actual observation. According to tables accurately kept for forty-five years, the Winter climate of Southern Alaska has been as mild as that of West Virginia and Kentucky. This surprising fact is due to the Japan Gulf Stream, which first strikes the North American continent at the Queen Charlotte Islands, in latitude 50° north. Here the stream divides, one portion flowing northward and westward along the coast of Alaska, and the other southward along the coast of British Columbia, Washington Territory, Oregon, and California, ensuring them the mild Winters for which they are

remarkable. As the Atlantic Gulf Stream, flowing from American waters, crosses the ocean and warms England and the whole of Western Europe, so the Pacific Gulf Stream, flowing from the coast of Asia, warms Alaska and Oregon. Moreover, the Pacific Ocean is less open than the Atlantic to the Arctic Sea, and consequently this warm current retains its heat much longer than the corresponding stream on the east of our continent. The climate is colder in the interior than on the coast. On the island of Unalaska it is quite the same as that of Northwestern Scotland, and at St. Paul Harbor, on Kadiak Island, it is that of Southern Sweden and Norway.

Of the vast region drained by the Yukon River, little is known; but from its mouth down to Dixon Inlet, the coast region is so totally different in physical configuration and temperature, soil and productions, from the dreary and inhospitable regions stretching up into the icy fastnesses of the polar sea on the corresponding eastern slope of the continent, that all our prepossessions are reversed. Where we should expect perpetual Winter, without vegetation, with no animals but the dog and bear and seal, we find the Kentucky blue-grass growing six feet high, and timothy, red and black currants, gooseberries, and cranberries, of which hundreds of barrels are annually shipped. Potatoes are raised by the Indians; and at Wrangel a gentleman raises in his garden peas, carrots, lettuce, and indeed all our garden vegetables. He has grown cabbages weighing twenty-seven pounds, and cauliflower and celery superior to that produced elsewhere. Black currants and strawberries grow wild.

The Summer is short, but the vegetation is luxuriant, and the fields are bright with red and yellow blossoms. Prof. Muir says that he never met anywhere outside of the tropics such rank vegetation as in the Wrangel district of Alaska. In the Summer the woods resound with the songs of birds. And among its fur-bearing animals are the fox, mink, beaver, martin, otter, black bear, and wolverine; it has reindeer, mountain sheep and goats, the ermine, the marmot, the muskrat, and the wolf.

The fisheries of Alaska are unequalled in the world. As many as 7,000 salmon have been taken at one haul of the sein at Kasa-aw Bay, and these fish are frequently caught in Cook's Inlet weighing sixty pounds each. Three San Francisco firms caught 3,000 tons of codfish off the banks of the Shumajus Islands last year. The Alaska Commercial Company has leased the Pribyloff Islands in the Behring Sea of our

Government for thirty years, at an annual rental of \$55,000; and it pays a royalty of \$262,500 a year on the 100,000 seal skins allowed by the law to be taken there. Two small islands, St. Paul and St. George, furnish most of the seal skins sold in the markets of the world; and this single group of islands has paid into the United States treasury over \$2,500,000 since 1871. About \$100,000 of sea-otter skins are sold annually; and the total fur product amounts to about \$1,000,000 a year. This is not a bad yield for such a worthless country!

The extent of Alaska greatly exceeds the general impression. It has an area of over 580,107 square miles. It is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. It is 2,000 miles across it from east to west at the widest point. The Island of Altu in Alaska is as far west of San Francisco as Cape Elizabeth, at the entrance of Portland harbor, is east of that city. Really, San Francisco is the middle city of the Union between the extreme east and west. Alaska is about 1400 miles from north to south; but the shore line, up and down the bays and islands, according to the Coast Survey, measures 25,000 miles—two and a half times more than the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of the rest of the United States. In fact, the coast of Alaska, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. It is the great island region of this continent. The Alexander Archipelago alone has over 1,100 islands, with an aggregate area of 14,142 miles. The total area of Alaska islands is 31,205 square miles, and together would make a State as large as Maine. It contains the great volcanic system of the United States, and has sixty-one volcanoes which have been active since the country was known to Europeans. One of the volcanoes, Mt. Edgecombe, is near Sitka; its funnel-shaped crater is 2,000 feet across and 400 feet deep, and is 2,855 feet high. It is also remarkable for its glacier system.

Alaska contains one of the largest rivers in the world. The Yukon, which empties into Behring Sea through five mouths, is navigable for 1,500 miles, and is said to be 2,000 miles long. At some points along its lower course one bank cannot be seen from the other, and for a thousand miles it is from one to five miles in width. On its upper waters, within the Arctic circle, the Hudson Bay Company have a station called Fort Yukon, where a Scotch missionary is supported by the English Church.

This vast territory is now chiefly valuable for its rich yield of fur. Its next value is in its

fisheries. Its supply of heavy timber is said to be almost limitless. Gold has been discovered, and the Cassair mines near Wrangell are supposed to be rich. It has copper and iron also. Covering such a vast area, with great differences of climate, it is natural to suppose that its native population would belong to different tribes and represent varying degrees of savagery. It is sparsely peopled, however. Mr. Duncan, who went as missionary in 1857, describes the natives he found at Fort Simpson as at the lowest point of human degradation, and tells of several acts of cannibalism which are sickening to even read of. Dr. Jackson seems to have been more fortunate in his acquaintance with the natives. There are seven or eight tribes speaking a common language called Thlinket. We have not space to follow his divisions, with his interesting accounts of the different tribes. The Aleuts, occupying the Aleutian and some other islands, are kind and well disposed, and not without industry. They have acquired the rudiments of civilization from the Russians, who established schools among them. Vincent Colyer says that, were three-fourths of these Indians to arrive at New York as coming from Europe, they would be regarded as among the more intelligent and respectable of the emigrants landing at this port. This, however, may be the view of an enthusiast. Dr. Jackson has formed a favorable impression of their general intelligence, docility, and capacity to improve. But they are ignorant, lazy, addicted to drink when they can get liquor, and have the other vices incident to the uncivilized state. They are poor, live meanly, and have a rather hard time of it. They are polygamists, having as many wives as they can manage to keep; indeed, as the women do the work, a man's importance and wealth are shown by the number of his wives. When a girl arrives at a marriageable age, her lower lip is pierced, and a shell or silver pin is inserted. A man wanting a wife sends a message to that effect to the girl's parents. If they consent, he makes them such presents as he can procure. Then on an appointed day he goes to her house and sits on the door-step, his back towards the door. The relatives sing, and there is feasting and dancing, the couple taking no part. The latter are obliged to fast two days; then after a light meal, they fast two days longer. A month afterwards they come together and are recognized as husband and wife. The wife becomes at once, to all intents and purposes, a slave. The heaviest burdens and the greatest degradation fall on the women. From early childhood, every kind of

drudgery and oppression is put upon them. Female infanticide is common. Many Indian mothers, to save their daughters from a fate as wretched as their own, take them to the woods, stuff grass into their mouths, and leave them to die. If they are spared, and live to grow up, the lesson of their inferiority is beaten and burned into them while mere girls. Female infants are often given away, and girls of twelve are offered for sale; and sometimes a mother will sell her grown-up daughter for a week, or month, or even for life, for a few blankets or articles of clothing. If a wife bears only girls, her husband takes another. It is obvious that under such degrading conditions the better elements of human nature have no chance for development.

Dr. Jackson gives a succinct, and on the whole an encouraging, account of the missions recently established at a few points. He is a favorite of the natives. They call him Koo-stan-ine, which means the Great Whale; the whale family standing the highest in their estimation. They are divided into families, and the families are named variously—after the raven, the eagle, and other creatures; and their canoes and utensils are marked with these signs; and the whale family cannot marry into the family of the wolf or eagle.

Of the Missions in Alaska THE EVANGELIST has given frequent reports in letters from Dr. Jackson himself, and from the missionaries on that coast. But our readers will be interested in the fuller details given in this volume. The mission was begun at Fort Wrangel by Dr. Jackson and Mrs. McFarland Aug. 10, 1877. Two years after, Rev. S. H. Young, the missionary in charge, received twenty-three natives into the Church, giving eighteen of them Christian baptism; and five more were received the next Sunday. The account given of the work of teaching these natives, of their honesty and docility, of the difficulties to be overcome, especially in the letters of Mrs. McFarland, is full of interest, and shows what mission work is from the inside. Those who read the chapters devoted to this subject, will appreciate the zeal and devotion of the missionaries, and wish them success in their self-sacrificing labors. They will also get a vivid impression of the extent of the work to be done, and of the vast field waiting to be subdued and converted from a state of savage nature into a fruitful vineyard of the Master. The volume, which has a number of illustrations, is published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

DR. SHELDON JACKSON'S fresh and interesting book on *Alaska*²⁷ should put an end to the ridicule that has been so persistently directed against the late Secretary Seward because of his acquisition of that remote Territory, and its incorporation into the Union. Instead of being an unproductive and useless ice-bound desert, Dr. Jackson shows from his own careful

observations, supplemented by the researches of Mr. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Baker, of the Coast Survey, Professors Powell, Nourse, and others, that the southern portion of the immense tract, or nearly a moiety of the 600,000 square miles comprised in Alaska, is fertile and salubrious, and that its climate is as temperate as and more equable than that of the Middle States. The vegetable productions of the Northern and Middle States grow on its soil as luxuriantly as anywhere in the United States, and its resources of everything needful for existence and commerce—of timber, coal, copper, iron, gold, plumbago, and other minerals—are some of them illimitable, and others sufficiently abundant to give full employment to enterprise, and to insure a prosperous future to the country. In addition to the resources contained in or dependent upon its soil, the seas that surround Alaska, the vast rivers that penetrate it—one of these rivers, the Yukon, is over two thousand miles long, and seventy miles wide at its mouth—and the boundless forests that cover its mountains, abound in seal, fish, and fur-bearing animals, which already give profitable employment to large numbers, and make an important contribution to the commerce and industry of the nation. Alaska is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Its extremest island, Attu, in the Aleutian Archipelago, is as far west of San Francisco as the coast of Maine is east of that city. Its extreme breadth from east to west is 2200 miles, and from north to south 1400 miles; and its shore-line up and down the bays and around the islands is 25,000 miles, so that its coast, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. It is the great island and region of the United States; its islands, over one thousand in number, rise abruptly out of the ocean to a height of from one thousand to eight thousand feet, the channels between them being in some places less than a quarter of a mile wide, and yet too deep to afford anchorage. This great archipelago forms one of the most remarkable stretches of inland ocean navigation in the world; its island shores are bold, and indented with innumerable bays and harbors; they have an abundance of fuel and water, and they afford perfect shelter from the swells of the ocean. The voyager may enjoy among them an ocean sail of a thousand miles without encountering peril or even seasickness. Moreover, Alaska

* *Adventures in Patagonia; A Missionary's Exploring Trip.* By the Rev. Titus Coan; with an introduction by Rev. Henry M. Field, D. D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1880. Pp. 319.
† *Alaska, and the Missions on the North Pacific coast.* By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. New York; Dodd, Mead & Co. Pp. 327.

Two modest and unpretending books of travel, just published by Dodd, Mead & Co., are renewed proof of the services which Christian missionaries have rendered to geography and ethnology. Rev.

The other volume to which we refer is Rev. Dr. Jackson's account of the establishment of the Presbyterian mission in Alaska.† Alaska is noted as being a country more frequently reported upon than any of which we have account. Dr. Jackson draws freely from the various sources, official and unofficial, which are now accessible to him who would know aught of Alaska, its people, resources and history. The author, who takes a rosy and Sewardian view of our often-described purchase, occupies the first half of his book with extracts from the reports. The rest of the work is taken up with a series of letters from the missionaries and their helpers, dove-tailed together by a running commentary from the pen of the author and editor. The result is a tolerably interesting book, whose chief value consists in its skillful condensation of information previously collected by other explorers. The work is copiously illustrated by some particularly bad wood-cuts.

THE ILLUSTRATED

Missionary News,

Propositions for "Localization," orders, and remittances can be addressed to MR. J. R. PHILLIPS, "ILLUSTRATED MISSIONARY NEWS" OFFICE, 200, Lancaster Road, London, W. Post-Office orders to be made payable at Clarendon Road Post-Office. Cheques to be crossed "London and County Bank."

All Communications for the Editor, to be addressed Harley House, Bow Road, E.

"*Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast.*" By REV. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Fully Illustrated. NEW YORK: DODD, MEAD, & Co.

This book is a first-class contribution to the Missionary geographer. Its details cover an extent of territory equal to 2200 miles, in an air-line from East to West, and from 1400 miles from North to South. It is a book which proves that "San Francisco is the great middle city between the extreme East and West of the United States." The account it gives of its various tribes, their customs, houses, dances, feasts, religious beliefs, and Christian Missions amongst them, is very full, interesting and arousing. No Sunday School, Mission, or Geographical Library should be without it.

Illustrated Missionary News

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated.

THERE is now lying before us a complimentary copy of this work just issued from the American press, and we have read it with more than ordinary interest. Its style is vigorous and good, and the book is brimful of varied and useful intelligence. Its outstanding aim is to excite a deeper interest in mission work in Alaska, and, as subsidiary to that, it imparts authentic information regarding the physical features and resources of that important and most recent annexation to the Republic of the United States. We feel on almost every page the warmth and glow of that fervid missionary spirit which, we know from other sources, directs the life and inspires the utterances of the author. Sometimes the impression is made on the mind of the reader that Dr. Jackson had no time for rhetorical display or for literary embellishment. The facts are set down to speak for themselves with an emphasis and eloquence which are irresistible; and we don't wonder when we read that when missionaries and suitable premises for mission operations were urgently needed at Alaska, in response to appeals which the author made to the great Presbyterian Church in America some twelve thousand dollars, and, at a later stage of the mission, some five thousand more were readily and enthusiastically subscribed. Here is a descriptive of the book.

THE GLOBE.

PUBLISHED AT

Golden, - - - - Colorado.

WM. G. SMITH, - - - - Editor.

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1880.

ALASKA.

A new publication which may truly be characterized an interesting romance of modern missions, has recently been published by Dodd, Mead & Co., 751 Broadway, N. Y. A copy of the work, title of which heads this mention of the work, has been mailed us for inspection by the author, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D.

The book contains a very complete sketch of the great extent of the country of Alaska, its natural phenomena, agriculture, islands, mountains, volcanoes, glaciers, Aurora Borealis, mineral springs, rivers, furs, fisheries, lumber, coal, petroleum, copper, iron,

sulphur, gold and climate as well as an outline of the best routes to travel.

A very interesting account is given in this work of the population, its customs, houses, dances, festivities, religious beliefs and Shamanism. In order to give the public a more enlightened and correct idea of the natives, and their habits, reference is made to their customs of widow burning, female infanticide, selling girls, polygamy, habitations of cruelty and the murder of the old and feeble.

A general outline of all the missionary work in Alaska is concentrated in several chapters of the book, making special mention of the Greek and Luthuran churches, the commencement of the Presbyterian missions, the missions of the Methodist church of Canada and British Columbia, etc. This part of the work is very interesting and embraces in connection with its other attractions, sketches of the prominent missionaries that have given their endeavors to reclaim this new country and its heathenish inhabitants from the clutches of barbarity and degradation to civilization and Christianity, the twin sisters of advancement that march hand in hand toward the goal of genuine happiness and joy.

The book contains descriptions of several of the leading points in Alaska, most prominent among which is, perhaps, Sitka; and also, a tradition concerning the appearance of the first white man in that section.

All this valuable information is written up in an attractive, pleasant style that interests the reader. It contains ninety illustrations representing every prominent feature brought out by the contents of the book. It is a work that presents a fine appearance, being twelve mo and three hundred pages, and would be a valuable addition to any library; but, it may be said to be especially suited to Sunday school libraries.

The Religious Herald,

HARTFORD:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1881.

Alaska and its Missions.

The publication of Dr. Jackson's *Alaska and its Resources*, has lately drawn much attention toward that portion of our domain, and it is our object to put in briefer form a few of the interesting points in his narrative.

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by Pond & Childs, Hartford.

This is a very entertaining and instructive book. What we used to see in our geographies as the Russian Possessions, became in 1867 by purchase at \$7,200,000 a part of our own country under the name Alaska, a word which means "a great country or continent," and it is as large as the original thirteen States of the Union with the great Northwest Territory added. Dr. Jackson has been for some years a missionary in Alaska and has organized a church there. His account of his and other missionary laborers is very interesting. He gives also descriptions of the country, climate, soil, business, etc., with the peculiarities of the people. The great number of portraits and other pictorial illustrations adds very much to the interest and value of the volume. Capt. Ebenezer Morgan, who has been there whaling and fur-trading, said at a New York ladies' missionary meeting, "I have read all that my Bro. Sheldon Jackson has published concerning Alaska, and I know of but one mistake he makes. He does not say enough. He has not told you one half of the degradation of those Northern Indians, and I do not know where the suffering comes heavier than on the women, who are slaves and beasts of burden."

The Independent.

251 Broadway, opp. City Hall Park.

DR. SHELDON JACKSON, in his book on "Alaska," draws a moving picture of the degradation of the Indians of that great territory, shows how anxious they are to hear the Gospel and to be taught, and gives an account of the beginning of the Presbyterian Mission. Any one who reads the book will be sure to catch some of the enthusiasm of the author, who considers Alaska one of the best mission-fields on the globe. The Presbyterian Mission has had great encouragement since work was begun at Fort Wrangell, by Mrs. A. R. McFarland, in 1877, with seventeen pupils. Mrs. McFarland soon saw the importance of opening a home for girls. Little could be done, she was convinced, unless the girls could be saved from the peculiar dangers threatening them. So she formed the idea of a home for the saving and training of these girls. The Industrial Home for Girls was opened in August last. It stands on a secure footing and promises to do much good. The various schools opened have a large attendance. That at Sitka, in charge of Miss Austin, had 130 children by the end of last April. Miss Austin teaches cleanliness to her pupils perseveringly and effectively. She is visiting the homes of the children, to show the parents how to make their households cleanly and orderly. She says of the children:

"I am surprised to see how rapidly the children have advanced, considering the want of material. Four blackboards (two of which were used for tables), forty slates and pencils, and sixteen benches were all the school contained. Notwithstanding these difficulties, they all learned the alphabet and a great many words of five and six letters. During the week they also learn at least one new verse of Scripture, to recite to their pastor Sunday. Eighteen or twenty of the children are now reading in the first reader, and others are ready to begin as soon as we obtain books."

She says some of the children come to school with only a blanket, and a shirt made out of salt bags; but when the example is set them of neatness they seem anxious to follow it. Connected with the school are two wash-rooms, and the children are encouraged and exhorted to make good use of clean water. "The first day they commenced washing," writes Miss Austin, "one of the boys did not come in till quite late. He seemed perfectly astonished to see the children looking so clean and nice. Finally he exclaimed: 'Excuse me. I guess I go and wash too.' When he came back he said: 'I look better now. Don't I? My face looks clean now.'"

THE COUNCIL FIRE.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL; 16 PAGES QUARTO.

Its Theme—The Indian. Its Motto—Justice. Its Object—Peace.

Price \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

Sample copies, 10 cents.

Office, 308 Thirteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

A. B. MEACHAM, Editor,

P. O. Address, Box 700.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY, 1880.

Dr. Jackson's New Book.

Brother Sheldon Jackson, D. D., whose eloquent and instructive lectures on Alaska attracted so much attention in Washington during the past winter, has recently brought out a book of 326 pages, entitled "Alaska and Missions of the North Pacific Coast."

Alaska is a suitable *quo incognita* to the vast majority of our people. Congressmen and citizens were alike astonished at the revelations of it contained in Dr. Jackson's lectures. The lectures were but a condensation of the book he then had in press. Those who read the book, therefore, will get all, and more than we got, who sat entranced at his marvelous narrative, which reminds one of nothing so much as the diary of those intrepid traders who first explored the great plains of the Platte and the valley of the Columbia.

The average American was disposed to think this Government was cheated, when in 1867, it paid Russia \$7,200,000 for Alaska. The same class find it difficult to believe that this purchase comprises an area of territory equal to the original thirteen States and the Great Northwest combined; a territory 2,200 miles long from east to west and 1,400 from north to south, with a coast line that would belt the globe. That its extreme western boundary is as far west of San Francisco as the eastern coast of Maine is east of that city. It is a pleasant surprise also to learn that its resources of timber, coal, iron, gold, &c., as well as furs, fish, and agricultural facilities, are so great as is stated by Dr. Jackson. We need only add that our author writes of what he has seen. His statements are reliable. They are also sustained by the records of public surveys and other authorities. The book is profusely illustrated and handsomely bound. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, publishers; and sold at \$1.50. Orders sent to THE COUNCIL FIRE will be promptly filled.

*Michigan
Christian
Herald.*

ALASKA and Missions on the North Pacific Coast by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. For sale by J. Willyoung, Detroit. Price \$1.50.

The volume treats of Alaska, its extent, resources, population, customs, Greek and Lutheran churches, Presbyterian and Methodist missions, etc. It is written in a clear and interesting style and is profusely illustrated. From the many facts there given it is evident that the author believes the importance of that country has been vastly underestimated. The United States paid for it \$7,200,000, and the annual rental and royalty, which the government receives from the Alaska Commercial Company for seal fisheries alone, amount to \$317,000. In addition to this are the furs, minerals, other fisheries and agricultural resources of the region. Among the fur-bearing animals may be mentioned the fox, mink, muskrat, beaver, martin, otter, ermine, lynx and whistler; and among minerals, amethyst, garnet, agate, gold, copper, carnelians, graphite, iron, petroleum and fossil

**ZION'S
HERALD.**

Dodd, Mead & Co. publish a volume of special interest to us just at this time, as a small sum of money has been appropriated for a preliminary missionary survey, in our late Northwestern purchase from Russia. It is entitled ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Illustrated, 16mo, 327 pp. For sale in Boston by Estes & Lauriat. The volume is the record of a missionary exploration of the country, and gives a good account of its appearance, its present condition and possibilities, the Indian inhabitants, their habits and customs, and the religious stations, churches and schools already established. Our Presbyterian brethren have several successful religious establishments in Alaska. The volume will be read with interest both for economic and missionary intelligence. Dr. Sheldon takes a rather more encouraging view of the country than some of our late naval officers stationed there, whose reports have been published.

THE CHRISTIAN TIMES.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. [New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.] Cloth, 16mo., pp. 327. Price \$1.50. For sale by Estes and Lauriat, Boston.

We are glad that Dr. Jackson has found time to prepare this excellent volume on Alaska. His acquaintance with the missionary condition and needs of the West generally, and his special visit to Alaska under appointment of the government, well qualify him to tell what Christian people most desire to know about this intensely interesting portion of our land.

The first part of the volume is devoted to giving an account of the size and natural resources of the country, the characteristics of the population,

their customs and religious beliefs. The second part describes what has been, and is being done by our benevolent boards for these neglected peoples. The book contains the very valuable letters of Mrs. McFarland in the Rocky Mountain Presbyterian. The value of the work is greatly increased by its numerous (87) illustrations. We shall have occasion to refer to the work in another part of our paper: suffice it to say here that the book is one of intense interest to every Christian citizen.

CHRISTIAN STANDARD AND HOME JOURNAL.

ALASKA and MISSIONS on the NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Price \$1.50. On sale by Perkinpine & Higgins, 914 Arch street, Philadelphia. An excellent work and full of the most interesting details, which will do good to all who examine them.

Missionary Explorations.

From the Congregationalist.

Two books lie before us, which we recommend cordially. They will be read with interest, and are full of novel and useful facts.

One is "Alaska." It is by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., well-known to many of our readers as a Presbyterian clergyman and missionary. It gives a full but reasonably condensed account of this vast and distant land, which the United States bought of Russia a few years ago. Its appearance, people, climate, customs, productions, mineral resources, etc., are described graphically, and then follows a minute and touching history of the mission work which has been begun there, and which already has been very fruitful. The book is illustrated abundantly and well, and it is suited to the old and young alike. The comparative apathy of the Christian church in our country to the needs of Alaska, over which we now, as a nation, have assumed responsibility, needs to be, and will be, dispelled by such stirring books as this. Before many years the manifold resources of Alaska will attract a large and active population. Christians must make haste to plant the gospel there at once, and this volume suggests the way. (Dodd, Mead, & Co. \$1.50.)

The other book is "Adventures in Patagonia."

Portland Manuscript

The second volume is by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., and is devoted to an account of *Alaska*, and the missions on the North Pacific coast. It is not a narrative of personal experiences so much as a compilation of all there is known of Mr. Seward's purchase, the acquisition of which he regarded as the most important act of his official life, though he admitted it might take two generations before the purchase would be appreciated. Alaska is an English corruption of the native word "Al-ak-shak," which means "a great country or continent." And it is indeed a great country, covering over 580,107 square miles, an area as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river and north of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. It has an extreme breadth, east and west of 2,200 miles, and north and south of 1,400 miles. Its coast, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. The country is supposed to be rich in gold, silver, copper, iron, marble and coal, but the climate is severe. The Eskimo live in snow huts. The work contains a great amount of interesting information, especially with reference to the missions. The natives appear to be tractable, and very desirous to learn.—Hoyt, Fogg & Donham; prices \$1.25 and \$1.50.

TIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCAT

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Price, \$1.50.

Ever since the purchase of this icy section of the globe by the United States from Russia, there has been a romantic desire to know more of its extent, natural phenomena, the productions and occupations of its native population, their customs and condition, and the prospects of bringing them into the embrace of our civilization. All these questions, and many others of great interest, are happily answered by Dr. Jackson, in this deeply interesting and instructive book. The well-executed map and the striking illustrations aid much in making the text clear and comprehensive to the student and the general reader. The chapter on the condition of the Indian women of Alaska is one that should stimulate every philanthropist to lend any possible aid to efforts of missionaries and others to ameliorate their degraded state. This book deserves an extensive sale and a wide reading. It is presented to the public in the attractive style which has always characterized the publications of Dodd, Mead & Co.

PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

EDITOR:

ALFRED NEVIN, D. D., LL. D.

Philadelphia, May 6, 1880.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Price \$1.50.

ADVENTURES IN PATAGONIA. A Missionary's Exploring Trip. By the Rev. Titus Coan, with an introduction, by Rev. H. M. Field, D. D. Price \$1.25. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, and for sale by all booksellers.

The titles of these two books, coming as they do together, from the same house, bring to mind the promise in Ps. ii. 8, given to those who have been "asking" so many long and weary years, and we wonder if it is to be fulfilled soon, when these "utmost parts of the earth" are to become their "possession." It is both discouraging and stimulating to our faith, to read of these distant corners of the world, and realize how much of our inheritance below, there is yet "to be possessed" in the name of our Lord and King. The work can never be accomplished until we know what it is, and so find out what is to be done.

Dr. Jackson has rendered the church and the world a good service in this respect, startling us with many wonderful facts concerning Alaska, which are given in his own interesting way, accompanied with his portrait and many illustrations. The book is a valuable addition to general as well as missionary literature.

ALASKA and Missions on the North Pacific Coast by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. For sale by J. Willyoung, Detroit. Price \$1.50.

The volume treats of Alaska, its extent, resources, population, customs, Greek and Lutheran churches, Presbyterian and Methodist missions, etc. It is written in a clear and interesting style and is profusely illustrated. From the many facts there given it is evident that the author believes the importance of that country has been vastly underestimated. The United States paid for it \$7,200,000, and the annual rental and royalty, which the government receives from the Alaska Commercial Company for seal fisheries alone, amount to \$317,000. In addition to this are the furs, minerals, other fisheries and agricultural resources of the region. Among the fur-bearing animals may be mentioned the fox, mink, muskrat, beaver, martin, otter, ermine, lynx and whistler; and among minerals, amethyst, garnet, agate, gold, copper, carnelians, graphite, iron, petroleum and fossil ivory. The climate is mild, for so northern a latitude. This is especially so in the southern part owing to the influence of the Gulf Stream. At Fort Yukon the thermometer has ranged from 100° in summer to 70° below zero in winter.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN,

ALASKA, or Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers. Pittsburgh: W. W. Waters & Co.

Dr. Jackson, the Randall Ross of the Presbyterian Church, has prepared a book replete with information about a country of which people generally are very ignorant. Probably no other book will furnish as much information. The vast and varied resources and immense size of the country, few are aware of. This work will, no doubt, do good service not merely in disseminating knowledge of the material characteristics of the land, but will also quicken the interest of Christian people in its spiritual regeneration.

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RELIGION LITERATURE EDUCATION

**CANADIAN
METHODIST
MAGAZINE**

DEVOTED TO
RELIGION. LITERATURE & SOCIAL PROGRESS

Vol. XII. AUGUST, 1880. No. 2.

INDIAN MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.*



TATOOED INDIAN WOMAN, NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

NEVER, we think, have the triumphs of mission work been more marked and marvelous than in the case of the Indian missions on the North Pacific coast. Previous articles of this MAGAZINE,† from the accomplished pen of Mr. J. E. McMillan, have

given an account of the origin of that work, the main features of which we here briefly recapitulate:

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It was not till the year 1864 that the Canadian Methodist Church fairly entered upon the work of Indian evangelization in British Columbia. In that year the Rev. Thomas Crosby began his great life-work as a lay teacher at Nanaimo. With the facility begotten by enthusiasm, he rapidly acquired the native dialect, and was soon able to preach to the Indians in their own tongue. Here and among the pagan tribes on the banks of the majestic Frazer, he proclaimed the emancipating message of the cross, and many converts to the Christian faith,

* For much of the information on which this article is founded, we are indebted to the admirable volume on Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast, by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, published by Dodd, Mead & Co., to whose courtesy we are also indebted for the use of the cuts by which it is illustrated.

† See numbers for April and May, 1878.

by their changed lives and holy conversation and happy deaths, attested the power of the message.

In the neighbourhood of Victoria, Vancouver's Island, at this time, were a number of Indians, the demoralized parasites of the

white man's civilization, who had acquired, by contact, the white man's vices rather than his virtues. Their degraded condition awoke the pity of the Methodist community of the place, and in 1869 it was resolved, at a meeting held in the house of Mr. William McKay, to organize a Sunday-school for the religious instruction of these moral waifs and estrays of mankind. It was with difficulty that their native apathy was overcome, and any degree of interest aroused. Their teachers were unable to speak the native language, or even the Chinook jargon, and the Indians had only a very imperfect acquaintance with English. Through this imperfect medium, however, a knowledge of the glorious gospel of Christ found its way, and soon Amos Sa-hat-son, and two others of the same tribe, were rejoicing in the great salvation.

For two years the school was regularly held, although the attendance was never more than ten or twelve, and often only three or four. Now, however, a wonderful revival took place, whose far-reaching results only the great day shall declare. Upwards of forty natives were converted to God, among them

Elizabeth Deix, a hereditary Indian chieftess, of great energy of character. In her new-born zeal she prayed earnestly for the conversion of her son Alfred, a pagan Indian living at Fort Simpson, five hundred miles north of Victoria, and within fifteen miles of the Alaska frontier. At this very time—was it not in answer to that mother's earnest prayers?—her son and his wife arrived at Victoria, and were soon sharers of the like precious faith.

Alfred and his wife Kate spoke English well, and after ten months left Victoria with a few Bibles and Wesleyan Catechisms, as the pioneer missionaries to their pagan tribes-men at Fort Simpson. "The former desperado," writes Mr. McMillan, "who a few months before was the terror of the whole surrounding country, had all at once become a meek and quiet citizen and zealous working Christian." With his wife he established a day-school, which soon had 200 pupils, and organized prayer and experience meetings and religious classes. Before a single white missionary visited the Fort, every family had renounced paganism, five hundred persons were attending these religious services, and several were hopefully converted to God. In answer to their earnest prayers for a missionary, the Rev. Mr. Crosby and his devoted wife were sent to take charge of this promising station. The Indians promptly contributed towards the erection of a church, several hundred dollars in money and money's worth, and soon they had a commodious and elegant church, forty by fifty feet, with a spire 110 feet high, capable of seating 800 persons—indeed the most commodious Methodist church in the province. During its erection a storm blew off the roof and threatened its destruction. The walls were firmly lashed with ropes, and the people repaired to the school-house. There the following scene, as described by Dr. Jackson, took place: "A chief arose and called out that it was not a time for long speeches, but for action. Instantly twenty or thirty men left the house; others followed them, but soon they returned with rolls of blankets—the currency of that region—on their shoulders and laid them in front of the teacher's desk, as their offering to the Lord. Blankets, coats, shirts, shawls, guns, finger and ear-rings, bracelets, furs, and almost everything that could be turned into money, were laid upon the table, to the value of \$400—a striking commentary on the constraining love of Christ in their hearts."

As at Fort Simpson, so also in the vast territory of Alaska, converted Indians were the pioneers of evangelical Protestant Christianity. The Russians, indeed, had for many years priests of the Greek Church in that country; but on its cession to the United States they were withdrawn. The influx of American miners—a reckless and wicked lot of men—and the establishment of a military post at Fort Wrangel, far from the restraints of civilization, had introduced all the vices of the white race, and greatly demoralized and degraded the Indian population. The place was almost wholly given up to drunkenness, gambling, and debauchery. In 1876 a number of Christian Indians from

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Fort Simpson arrived at Fort Wrangel under contract to cut wood for the American Government. Among them was an Indian named Clah, or Philip McKay, a man of superior intelligence and piety. These faithful Indians, amid the abounding wickedness on every side, resolved to make an effort for the conversion of their countrymen. They obtained the use of an old dance-house—the scene of the foulest pagan orgies—as a place of worship, and induced a few of the natives to attend. Though mocked and jeered and opposed by wicked white men, they persevered till the place became too small for the crowds of those benighted pagans who thronged to the meetings, some forty of whom were converted to Christianity by this strange agency, among them the head chief of the place. For weeks and months, writes Mr. McMillan, the voice of praise and prayer was daily heard at Fort Wrangel, the services being conducted wholly by these Christian Indians. The commandant of the fort gave them his protection, and secured a room for their services. To put an end to the hideous Indian custom of dancing around a dead body and consuming it to ashes, the Christian Indians procured a plot of ground for a cemetery, and interred the dead with Christian rites.

In the fall of the year Mr. Crosby visited the Fort and took steps to organize a church. Subscriptions in money and blankets were received in amounts varying from ten dollars to twenty-five cents, and many promised work. Mr. Crosby agreed to look after the mission thus providentially begun, till an American missionary could be appointed to its control. He directed Clah to remain and open a school. So anxious were the natives to learn, that the school was attended by sixty or seventy adults. Three times on Sunday Clah preached to audiences of from 200 to 400 of his own people. The wicked whites and Indian sorcerers opposed by ridicule and threats of violence these services; but they grew in influence and power. Prayerless white men were reminded of their early religious training, and many of the Indians were converted from paganism, devil-dances, and witchcraft, to the service of God. An American soldier wrote to General Howard, of the U. S. army, urging the appointment of a missionary. The appeal was sent to the Presbyterian General Assembly, and Dr. Jackson was authorized by the Board of Missions to make a missionary tour to the Pacific coast. In Oregon he found an old missionary friend, Mrs. A. R. McFarland, a lady born in Virginia, educated in Ohio, and the now widowed wife of the first Presbyterian missionary in New Mexico. She was induced to go to Alaska to take charge of the young mission. When she arrived with Dr. Jackson at Fort Wrangel,

on passing down the street, they saw an Indian ringing a hand-bell. It was Clah calling scholars to his school, which was held in a disused dance-hall. Mrs. McFarland was the only Christian white woman in a territory as large as France. For seven months she was the only Protestant missionary in Alaska, and for a year the only one at Fort Wrangel. All the perplexities of the people, religious, physical, social, and moral, were brought to her for solution. If any were sick, they came to her as a physician; if any were dead, she was called upon to take charge of the funeral. If husbands and wives became separated, she was the peacemaker to bring them together. If difficulties arose as to property, she was judge, lawyer, and jury. If feuds arose among tribes or families, she was arbitress. When the Indians called a convention, she was elected "chairman." She was called upon to interfere in cases of witchcraft; and when a white man was hanged for murder, she became his spiritual adviser. Her fame went far and wide among the tribes. Great chiefs came long distances to enter the school of "the woman that loved their people." She had charge of both school and church, in both of which she was greatly aided by Clah and another Fort Simpson Indian. Alas! before the year was out, Clah died of consumption at the early age of thirty years. His privations, probably, shortened his life. His salary was only ten dollars a month, on which to keep himself and wife and child, and pay rent; and he lived month after month almost entirely on fish. As he lay upon his death-bed, his great anxiety was lest his wife and child should suffer for want of food. Mrs. McFarland assured him that they would be cared for. As he was dying, he said, "As earth fades away, heaven grows brighter;" and turning to his weeping wife, he said, "Annie, you must not cry; Jesus knows what is best." He was buried by Christian Indians at Fort Simpson. Dr. Jackson gives his portrait—a fine, intelligent face—and that of Mrs. McFarland—a countenance of noble and commanding expression.

The Presbyterian Church has grandly sustained this mission, contributing in two years \$12,000. They have now a church, school, hospital, and industrial home—the latter an imperious

necessity to rescue girls who would otherwise fall victims to the vice of wicked white men. For the same purpose Mrs. Crosby has opened a Home for Indian girls at Fort Simpson, which has been supported hitherto by the contributions of a few friends. Its maintenance is fitting work for the Women's Missionary Society, now being organized in Canada. The need for such a home may be inferred from the following pathetic appeal for that at Fort Wrangel: "O you mothers of dear young girls—every one whose home is made fairer by a daughter's face—give some-

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thing to save these other girls from shame and anguish—something to help us teach those other mothers how great a boon a maiden may be at their own fireside.” The results of our Methodist mission at Fort Simpson have been most salutary and most marked. The converted Indians have exhibited a high Christian character. They carry their religion with them wherever they go. They travel thousands of miles, but neither wind, tide, hunger, nor the urgency of their white employers can induce them to travel on the Lord’s day. They yearn to tell their countrymen the story of the cross. They sorrow over the ravages made by the white man’s vices, the white man’s diseases, and the white man’s fire-water. “We see no difference,” said one, “between killing men with whiskey and killing them with a gun.” Our own heroic Crosby has imperilled his own life by his determined opposition to the liquor traffic, leading sometimes to the forcible destruction of the casks of liquor in a drunken Indian camp.

The day-school at Fort Simpson numbers about 120, and a large Sunday-school, in three sections, is taught by Mr. and Mrs. Crosby and Miss Knott. In two years sixty new houses have been built by the Indians, and the whole tribe are being raised to a higher plane of civilization. The Church has a membership of 258. Mr. Crosby has established an annual industrial fair, at which prizes are given for the best carving in wood and silver, the best gardens and vegetables, the best sashes and doors, best cured salmon, etc.

As at Fort Simpson and Fort Wrangel, so at Naas River, it was converted Indians who became the pioneer missionaries to their pagan countrymen. The mission authorities of our Church were unable, when an appeal was made them for this station, to incur any further expense. But at a prayer-meeting held in the house of Mr. McKay, in the same room in which the first meeting was held in 1869 to promote the spiritual welfare of the Indians of Victoria, spontaneous contributions of \$236 were given, and the Rev. A. E. Greene was sent as a missionary to Naas River. He and Mr. Crosby held a five days’ meeting, and a glorious revival began. Soon a congregation of 500 attended the services and 100 met in class. The work spread throughout the surrounding country, and from the forks of the Skeena to Kit-a-mat and Bella-Bella and Queen Charlotte’s Island—all the result, together with the flourishing missions in Alaska, (may we not say?) of that memorable prayer-meeting held in the house of a God-fearing Methodist at Victoria, eleven years ago.

Any one interested in the cause of missions—and what Christian is not?—will find this wonderful story recorded, with many details which we have to omit, in Dr. Jackson’s admirable book on “Alaska and the Missions of the North Pacific Coast”—a story

of more absorbing fascination than a romance. The book gives also an interesting account of the extent and resources of that country, of its villages and native tribes, their manners and customs, of their revolting pagan usages, and of the wonderful change being wrought by Christian missions. Is not this moral transformation more than a tenfold compensation for all the toil and money expended on the Indian missions of our Church? and an incentive and summons to greater zeal in a cause which God has so abundantly honoured and blessed?

, TELESCOPE,
DAYTON, OHIO.

Last Two Books Read.

While I have been attending annual conferences, the last two months, I have read two books, "A Fool's Errand," written by Judge Tourgee, and "Alaska and Missions of the North Pacific Coast," written by Sheldon Jackson, D. D. These authors have told, in a forcible and interesting manner, much respecting the condition of society in many of the southern states of our Union and Alaska, including the resources of that far-off north-west country, which according to Dr. Jackson's showing are great, and will become highly valuable to the United States at no distant day.

These authors were pre-eminently qualified to produce such books, and give full and accurate statements respecting the subjects upon which they write. Dr. Jackson being superintendent of Presbyterian mis-

sions of the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast, and going to Alaska, and in company with others founding a mission there, meantime exploring that country somewhat extensively, Judge Tourgee being an officer in the Union army for four years, then settling in the South at the close of the war, and living there ever since, were well qualified to write the aforesaid books; and they did their work well.

It is not my purpose to show the excellences of these books other than to say that they treat of a country and people with whom we ought to be more intimately acquainted than the large majority of the people in the North are. The southern states and Alaska are parts of the United States of America, and are destined to exert a great influence for weal or woe upon the other por-

tions of this country. In Alaska

"Surely these people, now a part of the population of the United States, ought to have missionaries sent among them; and United Brethren in Christ ought to bear a share in this work. D. K. FLICKINGER.

Washington D. C.
Feb 17th 1881

My dear Dr. Jackson.

I shall be very glad to receive the book which of course I have read before and which forms a decided addition to our stock of Alaskan literature. I see it has been generally very favorably noticed,

The prospects seem to be improving and I should not wonder if the next Session of Congress saw some law to be established in the Territory

Yours very truly

Chas. H. Dall

24
Theological Seminary,

Princeton, N. J., April 9th 1880

My Dear Dr. Jackson,

Your Collection attracts
much attention, and your book
on Alaska is admirable. With
kindest greetings and best wishes

Your Friend

Chas. H. Roberts

Dear Sir, for the book on P

I bought your volume
on Alaska last week, I have
now quite finished reading it,
like it much, and am very
glad that it was written.

Very truly S. McRae Wright.

Presbyterian Board of Publication,

1334 CHESTNUT STREET,

Philadelphia, Md 7th

Dear Sir,

I am glad to see that Dodd & Mead are to
publish the book on Alaska - The Rocky

Mountain Presbyterian has made a

wonderful leap in beauty, and (is it fancy?)

in interest too -

Yours truly,
Thos W. Watts.

Chicago

The Appeal.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Publishers. Price \$1.50. For sale by Jansen, McClurg & Co.

This is the most interesting work upon Alaska we have yet read. This wonderful country hitherto so little known is the great island region of the United States. The traveler can enjoy an ocean voyage of over a thousand miles without getting out to sea and without sea-sickness, the trip being made through channels between the island and main land.

It is the region of the highest peaks of the United States and also of its great volcanic system. It is also the great glacier region and abounds in hot and mineral springs. It contains not only one of the largest rivers in the United States but also of the world. The river Yukon is 2000 miles in length, and is navigable for 1500 miles. It abounds in fish and fur and the choicest pine lumber and is rich in minerals, coal and petroleum.

The book abounds in useful information concerning the natives, their cannibal customs, degradation etc., and the successful efforts which have been made to some extent to christianize them.

SAINT LOUIS PRESBYTERIAN.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50. St. Louis: H. R. Hildreth Printing Co., 497 N. 4th Street.

Dr. Jackson, an excellent likeness of whom faces the title page, has well been called the "Bishop of the Rocky Mountains." His diocese however extends 'all over'—from Colorado to Alaska. A genial gentleman, an indefatigable, courageous explorer, a wide-awake, devoted servant of the Church, the volume before us testifies that he is all this, and adds much information concerning far off Alaska, its geography, people, spiritual need and what is doing to supply that need. (An exceedingly interesting book.)

GRAND RAPIDS

SATURDAY EVENING POST

ALASKA; AND MISSIONS ON THE PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D. Dodd, Mead & Co., N. Y.; Eaton, Lyon & Co., Grand Rapids. Price \$1.50.

Men of the world should not be frightened from the reading of this volume by its sub-title, and the author's profession. The latter half of the book is, indeed, of special interest to those engaged in the work of Christianizing the race, but the rest of it has attractions for all who take pride in their country. In compact readable form it gives a clear idea of the resources of our latest acquired territory. What most people think of as a barren waste is shown to be rich in furs, minerals, fish, and timber, and to be, probably, the future dairy farm of the country; while much of what they fancy is a land of eternal snow and ice is shown to have a climate as mild as Virginia. Our people have much to learn of the northwestern corner of their country—which is to them a foreign land—and in the volume before us they may begin to take first lessons and find them presented in attractive form.

Pittsburg Telegraph

"ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST." By SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Pittsburgh: W. W. Waters. Fully illustrated, \$1.50.

There is a two-fold interest in this book, first, giving an admirable history of the country and a full description of the people, their customs and habits; second, a true picture of mission work of different denominations in that far off country. Few persons have an idea of the greatness and wealth of Alaska; it looks as if Seward's prophecy might prove true, that it will require "two generations before the purchase is appreciated." Its vast extent of territory and the wealth of mineral resources, should command more attention than has heretofore been awarded the country. It opens a new field of travel and uncovers places of mission life of which but little was known heretofore. Sterile as the soil is, there is much to attract attention for emigration; and the religious side presents many hopeful signs. Dr. Jackson has attained some celebrity for his sacrificing labors to bring the excellencies of Alaska before the Christian people of this country in its behalf. The book is profusely illustrated and handsomely gotten up.

BUFFALO COURIER.

In view of the growing interest in all that concerns Mr. Seward's seven million purchase, Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson's "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," just published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, is a timely book. It is not so exhaustive a work as that of Mr. Dall, but it gives all that the ordinary reader will care to know of the country, its climate, resources, natural phenomena and population. Dr. Jackson also gives an interesting history of missionary operations on the bleak shores of Alaska, beginning with the labors of the Russian priests as early as 1793. It was in 1877 that he himself arrived in the territory, the first Presbyterian minister who had ever visited it in the interest of missions. He found the Indians eager to learn, and the little school already opened at Fort Wrangell crowded with pupils. The record of his own and others' labors among the degraded aborigines and of the fruits which even now are realized, forms a most interesting contribution to missionary annals and testimony to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The book is very liberally illustrated. It is for sale in Buffalo by Peter Paul & Bro.

Manyville Iron
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PI. 00.

To most persons, Alaska is a *terra incognita*, and they will be surprised on reading this book to learn not only that in extent of territory it is greater than the original thirteen states, and indeed larger than all the United States east of the Mississippi River, but is largely a land of broad rivers, grand scenery, luxuriant herbage and beautiful flowers, and that it contains from thirty to sixty thousand inhabitants who need the word of life. That it is an important and hopeful mission field is clearly shown by the writer of this book, and all wide awake Christians should at once procure a copy of the same and carefully read it. It is intensely interesting.

Evangelical
Messenger

ALASKA; AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D. D. 12mo., pp. 327. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by Ingham, Clarke & Co., Cleveland, Ohio. Price, \$1.50.

The esteemed and well known author of this volume commenced his labors as a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, in Alaska, in the Summer of 1877, and since that time has labored zealously in behalf of the ignorant and degraded people of that land. This book gives not only an account of the various missions which had been established among the Alaskans while under Russian rule, as well as of those which have recently been started by various Christian denominations of the United States, but it also describes very comprehensively the country and its native inhabitants, with their customs, superstitions and rites. A large number of illustrations, drawn on the spot, with a fine steel portrait of the author, add interest and value to the book. In Jackson's opinion Alaska, before many years, will be found to be a great acquisition. Its climate is far better than is generally supposed; its soil is good, while its mining, timber, and fishing resources are almost inexhaustible.

St Louis
Globe Democrat

"Alaska." By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. This is the work of another missionary and is a volume of experience on the North Pacific coast. The writer presents an intelligible picture of this Government's new territorial acquisition in the Northwest, explains the resources of the country, the character of its people, the fruits of mission work in their midst, and closes the volume with a reference to the future of Alaska and the wide field there is there for pioneers of the Gospel of Christ.

Springfield Republican

Alaska.

Rev Sheldon Jackson, a Presbyterian missionary, has compiled a book on Alaska, published by Dodd, Mead & Co of New York, which gives considerable information about this terra incognita. It extends, taking in its numerous islands, which together would make a state as large as Maine, as far west of San Francisco as Portland is east of that city. Its shore line, following the bays and islands, measures 25,000 miles, more than twice the length of both the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of the rest of the United States. It has an area of more than 580,000 square miles, as large as the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of North Carolina. It has 61 volcanoes, whose forces are said to be decreasing, only 10 being now in active operation. From its mountain range lift the highest peaks in the United States—Mt St Elias 19,500 feet high, Mt Cook 16,000 feet, and many others of great altitude. Its rivers are among the largest, the Yukon being navigable for 1500 miles and for 1000 miles it is from one to five miles in width. Capt Butler, the English traveler who wrote "The Great Lone Land," describes prairies which it takes weeks to cross, and forests of pine half as large as Europe. The channels between the islands are sometimes less than a quarter of a mile wide, and yet too deep to drop anchor, the mountains rising from the water from 1000 to 8000 feet and covered with dense evergreen forests far up into the snow that caps their summits, from which rush down avalanches, making roads to the water's edge.

The presumption is that an arctic climate must prevail, but, on the contrary, owing to the Japan gulf stream, the winter climate of southern Alaska is as mild as that of Kentucky. Where we should look for perpetual frost the Kentucky blue-grass grows in rank luxuriance, black currants, strawberries and cranberries grow wild and almost all garden vegetables flourish. The summer is short but the vegetation luxuriant. The fisheries are unequalled, salmon being caught weighing 60 pounds. Three San Francisco firms caught 3000 tons of codfish off the Shumagin islands last year. The Alaska commercial company has leased the Pribilof islands of our government for 30 years at an annual rental of \$55,000, while it pays a royalty of \$262,500 a year on seal-skins. This single group of islands has paid into the United States treasury over \$2,500,000 since 1871. The total fur product amounts to about \$1,000,000 a year. The missions thus far established report successful progress, and some of the native tribes, the Aleuts, for instance, are spoken of as amicable and more or less civilized through Russian influences. Senator Seward maintained

Philadelphia Messenger

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., Publishers. pp. 327. Price \$1.50.

This is one of the most interesting books we have seen for a long time, and we would advise our readers to study it, if they wish to get a good idea of the extent and resources of Alaska, and of the people who inhabit it. Those who think Mr. Seward committed folly when he purchased these vast possessions from Russia for our country, are vastly mistaken. They are mistaken in regard to the climate, the soil, the geographical importance, and the wealth of what is reputed to be an inhospitable region. The degradation of the natives as described by Dr. Jackson, is as much a matter of interest as anything else, and the book will incite Christians to missionary effort.

Philadelphia Episcopal Register

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger.

It gives us great pleasure to see a book on whose accuracy we can rely as giving us a fair and full account of Alaska. Dr. Jackson the author is a Presbyterian minister who has made himself fully acquainted with it by a personal visitation of the country he describes. It would appear that Alaska excels in all the resources of a rich country. Its coast line exceeds in extent the remaining coast line of the United States. Its area is as large as all the United States east of the Mississippi and north of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. In its furs, in its fisheries, in its minerals, in its vegetable productions, it is a wonderful land. At Sitka its climate is equable. The natives, while exceedingly savage in some respects, are yet tractable, and many have been brought under Christian influences by the devoted male and female missionaries and teachers who are there employed. We trust that the book will be read, and we know it will be useful.

Syracuse The Journal.

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 1880.

BOOK TABLE.

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

New Books.

ALASKA.

"ALASKA," and the Missions on the North Pacific Coast could find no more truthful and graphic historian than the author of this book, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. It is profusely illustrated, and has an excellent map of the country. The narrative is intensely interesting, and gives an insight to the peoples, customs and life of that distant portion of our territory which few have ever found means to obtain before. The opening chapter is devoted to a description of the country and its resources. Then follow chapters upon the population, customs, houses, feasts, religious beliefs, terrible degradation of women, etc. Other chapters detail the efforts of missionaries, Greek, Lutheran, and American; the organization of the Presbyterian missions and the trials, privations, discouragements, opposition, and successes met with, with some account of the Church of England and Methodist missions in British Columbia. The Presbyterian missions are now only three years old, yet a church of twenty-two members has been established at Fort Wrangel, and schools have been established there and at Sitka, which are accomplishing wonders among that ignorant people. The perusal of the facts given in this book cannot fail to awaken an interest in that land never before felt. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, publishers. For sale by R. G. Wynkoop & Co., booksellers.

New York
World.

Another missionary book is the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson's account of "Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," also published by Dodd, Mead & Co. There is some preliminary information about Alaska itself, which is taken from official reports and other sources not generally accessible, and, like most official declarations on the subject, represents the Alaskan climate as much better than would be inferred from the latitude. The truth seems to be that there are tracts in Alaska which possess summers so mild that products of the temperate zone thrive in them; but the condition of the people sufficiently shows that the general character of the climate is Arctic. Dr. Jackson, however, is naturally interested in his own work much more than in the scene of it. He describes the people only in order to show the depth of the degradation from which he and his coadjutors are trying to rescue them; and three-fourths of his book are given up to a recital of the progress of his mission. This is of interest, of course, to the subscribers to his mission, but the reader who infers from the title of the book that it is a satisfactory description of Alaska, or of its inhabitants will be disappointed.

Troy Morning Whig

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1880.

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast.
By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., Publishers.

Had it been prophesied a hundred years back that, three generations thence, the United States would include within its borders a single territory whose area of 577,300 square miles would be about equal to that of the thirteen original states and Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi combined, the prophet would have been regarded not only as without honor in his own country but everywhere else. And yet, to-day, Alaska is a territory of the United States, whose square miles are of the area above stated. Two congressional reports respecting Alaska have been given to the public, thus far, but we believe this is the first authenticated volume on this subject outside of the government, which has appeared. Its author who has been a superintendent of home missions in the far west, made a tour through Alaska last summer, and declares the results of his journeys in these well-written pages. The ground covered by him embraces the natural phenomena of this immense region, its divisions, volcanoes, mineral springs, furs, fisheries, lumber, copper, iron, gold, population, customs, houses, dances, feasts, religious beliefs and cremation.

The author also informs us as to the degradation of Indian women in Alaska, and the horrible treatment to which females are subjected. He gives an account of the missions in that partially explored land, and of the efforts of the church of England in British Columbia, on the border of Alaska. Eighty-seven illustrations serve to render more intelligible this work, which will doubtless be eagerly perused by many.

For sale by H. B. Nims & Co., Cannon Place Bookstore, Troy.

Pittsburg
Christian Advocate

Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast.
By Rev. J. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

All the resources of that far away possession of the United States are given in this volume in a manner which, if rather drier and prosier than necessary, is yet full and detailed. It is copiously illustrated with cuts of Alaskan curiosities, implements, etc., and possesses some scientific merit as well as useful information for missionary enterprises.

Syracuse, Thursday, April 15, 1880.

Dr. Jackson's "Alaska."

It is an odd fact to be recorded of a people as enterprising as ours of the United States, that the part of our territorial domain which has given rise to the most lively controversy since it fell into our possession is the one which is actually the least known. The

province of Alaska was ceded to us by Russia in 1867 for the sum of seven and one-half million dollars, and the incidents of the purchase excited much comment and unfavorable to the administration then in power. Ever since that time the newspapers have vied with each other in presenting discouraging reports as to the climate, soil, inhabitants, government and industries, some of the data being drawn from official and others from unofficial sources, but all tending to one general conclusion—that our acquisition was an incubus which we could better afford to give away than to keep. Throughout the discussion has run a train of political fault-finding, which has left unprejudiced minds somewhat in doubt as to how much of the testimony to accept as worthy and how much to reject as warped and unfair.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, whose book on Alaska lies on our table, visited the peninsula on a religious mission, and made careful notes of what he saw and heard. His work may be acquitted of the political bias which affects most of the other reports that have come to us, though it is not unnatural that it should treat everything from a religious point of view. Be this as it may, there is no question that he has made a most interesting monograph, which will be read with eagerness from one end of our country to the other. The pleasantest chapters for general perusal are those which describe native manners and customs. Here, for example, is an account of the abodes in which the Alaskans live:

Their houses are generally built along the beach at the edge of high tide. They are

Dr. Jackson's account of the degradation of the native women, the practice of polygamy and witchcraft, and the efforts made by the missionaries for the amelioration of the condition of the people, are full of interest. We should be glad if the space were at our disposal to make copious quotations. There are also some valuable facts in the book concerning the mineral resources of the peninsula, and the fisheries, but most of these can be found in the government blue-books.

Published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. For sale in this city by R. G. Wynkoop & Company.

St Louis
Christian Advocate

—Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, have sent out an interesting and instructive volume of 327 pages, entitled "Alaska; and missions of the North Pacific Coast, by Sheldon Jackson, D. D." Some months ago we received an official report from Washington containing a vast deal of valuable information in regard to Alaska. This, with volume now under notice, will give the reader about all the information concerning that country he would be likely to desire. Dr. Jackson's work is very valuable. We are glad to see it. It speaks of a much better country than most people have supposed Alaska to be. The price of the book is \$1 50 per copy

Grand Rapids Eagle

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1880.

ALASKA, by Sheldon Jackson. Illustrated. New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.; Grand Rapids, Eaton, Lyon Co. \$1.50.

This is a rather interesting book, all about a country and its people that the average American readers cares little. As the Nation has purchased Alaska, every one feels it a sort of duty to know something about it. It is well known that Mr. Seward declared the purchase of Alaska the most important act of his official life, and insisted that future generations would appreciate it while the present would call it "Seward's Folly." This volume contains the desirable information concerning that frigid land, in attractive form.

Cincinnati Times

Another book from the same house and of a similar character is *Alaska*, by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson. It is the report of a missionary who was stationed in that part of the national possessions for some time. There is a great variety of information given respecting the land, its character, production and capacity, its people, their manners, habits and customs. It is plentifully illustrated and has three or four fine maps. (It is a book which ought to have a large circle of readers.) For sale by Robert Clarke & Co.

Dayton Democrat The Christian Register.

OFFICE: 101 MILK STREET.

ALASKA AND THE MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale in Dayton by J. H. Thomas & Co.

Alaska, although a territorial possession of the United States, is literally an unknown country to our people. The volume before us, of 327 pages, will tend to greatly enlighten this ignorance. Alaska is not altogether the bleak and barren country that the popular idea pictures it. Aside from its valuable resources in furs and fisheries, which constituted the leading motive for its acquisition by our Government, it abounds in mineral wealth, such as coal, petroleum, copper, iron, and even gold. In some portions timber abounds. In these parts, too, even the climate is agreeable, and between the mountains and the sea are many many natural prairies, with a rich soil of vegetable mould and clay, covered with perennial grasses. All that is attractive, as well as all that is repulsive, both in the land and in the people, is so graphically set forth in the volume before us, that it is not only "as interesting as a novel," but is a solid and permanent contribution to the reader's stock of general and useful knowledge.

Boston
Commonwealth

Dodd, Mead & Co. touch the two extremes of our continent in two volumes, which are simultaneously published by them—*Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast*, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., in which the writer, with abundant illustrations, gives us in a popular form all desirable information about this new possession of ours, and inclines to the opinion of Seward that in two generations' time the acquisition will be appreciated, if not before; and

BOSTON, MASS., SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1880.

Two accounts of missionary labor in wild and remote regions. The first, after an enthusiastic description of the climate, scenery, and natural resources of Alaska, gives a detailed report of the various missions established among the natives, whose aptitude for learning seems in some degree to repay the efforts of their teachers, especially when not counteracted by the demoralizing influence of intercourse with the whites.

Christian Secretary.

HARTFORD:

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by Pond & Childs, Hartford.

This is a very entertaining and instructive book. What we used to see in our geographies as the Russian Possessions, became in 1867 by purchase at \$7,200,000 a part of our own country under the name Alaska, a word which means "a great country or continent," and it is as large as the original thirteen States of the Union with the great Northwest Territory added. Dr. Jackson has been for some years a missionary in Alaska and has organized a church there. His account of his and other missionary laborers is very interesting. He gives also descriptions of the country, climate, soil, business, etc., with the peculiarities of the people. The great number of portraits and other pictorial illustrations adds very much to the interest and value of the volume. Capt. Ebenezer Morgan, who has been there whaling and fur-trading, said at a New York ladies' missionary meeting, "I have read all that my Bro. Sheldon Jackson has published concerning Alaska, and I know of but one mistake he makes. He does not say enough. He has not told you one half of the degradation of those Northern Indians, and I do not know where the suffering comes heavier than on the women, who are slaves and beasts of burden."

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson has made himself very lively in Home Missionary matters in all our new West. He must love to travel. We hear of him in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, and even in Alaska. Billings, Harbourn & Co. of this city have sent us a copy of his volume entitled "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. In this 12 mo of 327 pages the author gives us the results of considerable reading and of personal observation respecting the vast region which the United States have possessed, without greatly improving, during more than a decade. It would be impossible to find elsewhere in the same compass so much information respecting Alaska, especially as respects the moral and religious state of the people, and the efforts made within a few years to do an evangelizing work there. The narrative of these efforts is interesting. They were commenced in 1876, but it was not till August, 1877, that Mrs. McFarland, widow of a Presbyterian missionary, took up her residence in the territory. She deserves, we think, the tributes that are paid her in this volume. The difficulties met with are very serious, but it is gratifying that our Presbyterian brethren have found so many, and apparently so efficient, ministers and teachers for the work.

Aside from the matters pertaining to the missionary work thus begun, the book contains a great deal which is of interest respecting the country and its inhabitants. As many as a hundred pictorial illustrations are given. Some of these are quite helpful to a better impression of the strange region and scenes referred to. They are not quite so good specimens of the engraver's art as we might expect in these days. From a purely critical point of view, we might object to this book as not so good as it ought to be. But Dr. Jackson is not a man of leisure, who has plenty of time to work up a book in the most ideal manner. He has stirred up people to do something for the good of the Alaskans, and, viewed with reference to the same practical end, his book deserves a welcome. We may expect good to come from its publication.

—"Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, may be said to be a particularly successful book. With marked ability and skill the author has managed to put the reader in possession, vividly and accurately, of the facts in the case, relating to that out-of-the-way corner of our national domain. The numerous illustrations, many of them taken from public documents belonging to the U.S. Government, are of indispensable use. Abundant information is given relating to the natural peculiarities of the country, the characteristics of the native people, their habits of life, superstitions, and unimaginable degradations. But over against this is given an account of the efforts that have been made, especially by the Presbyterian and Methodist missionary societies to evangelize the Alaska Indians and Eskimos. There is thus presented the sharpest contrasts of darkness and light, as seen in the actual efficacy of the gospel of Christ to reach the lowest and to transform worse than brutes into sanctified manhood and womanhood. Such books as this should go into all Sunday-school libraries. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.)

Chicago Alliance

Mr. William H. Dall in his volume "Alaska and its Resources," gave the first reliable information in regard to Mr. Seward's much derided purchase, but Mr. Dall's volume was so expensive that the information that it gave was not very generally disseminated and we therefore welcome Mr. Jackson's cheaper volume as a means of correcting many wide-spread wrong impressions in regard to our largest and remotest territory. It will surprise many readers to learn that the winter climate of the southern part of Alaska is the winter climate of Kentucky and West Virginia. The greatest degree of heat recorded at Siika for forty-five years, was 87° and of cold 4° below zero. Unalaska abounds in grasses, we learn from this book, and is an excellent grazing country. The whole territory is rich in furs, fisheries, lumber, coal, petroleum, copper iron, sulphur and gold.

"Alaska covers over 580,107 square miles, an area equal to the original thirteen states of the Union, with the great "Northwest Territory" added, or in other words, Alaska is as large as all the United States east of the Mississippi River and north of Alabama and North Carolina. * * * Ac-

Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

A somewhat similar volume in subject, though differently treated, and published by the same house is "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Its main object is to describe the missions in Alaska, in the North Pacific Ocean, the latest annexed territory of the United States, obtained from Russia in 1867. He tells what has been done and is doing in Alaska and the adjacent coast by American, British and Russian missionaries. Churches have been built, congregations of converted heathens organized and schools established. It also embraces some valuable and interesting statistics covering the various features of interest in the country. Dr. Jackson brings his narrative down to the close of last year. His book is suitably illustrated with portraits and numerous wood engravings, and there is a good sized map of Alaska and the adjoining region. On sale by Caxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger. Price \$1 50

Boston Courier.

Those who are interested in missionary labors will doubtless find a religious satisfaction and a mournful pleasure in turning the pages of two volumes recently issued by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. One is by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson D.D. and is entitled *Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast*, and the other is from the pen of the Rev. Titus Coan and is called *Adventures in Patagonia, a Missionary's Exploring Trip*. The first mentioned is profusely illustrated, and the last has an introduction by the Rev. Henry M. Field, D. D.

New York
Advocate &
Guardian

Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Alaska is the strangest, wildest, most unknown part of our great country. An odd purchase it was thought by many, when seven millions of dollars were paid for it by our Government to Russia. We ought to know something about it, and to do something in the way of Christianizing its wild inhabitants. This volume gives us much useful and pleasant information respecting this far north-western, costly territory.

Philadelphia Times

Dr. Jackson's book about Alaska is a much more pretentious utterance. While dealing largely with the successful work of the Presbyterian mission, of which he was a member, a great deal of space is given to descriptions of the country and its resources and of the manners and customs of the natives. A number of good illustrations add largely to the value of the book. These are not simply pictures in the abstract, but pictures of the things that no amount of mere description could represent—idols, houses, burial places, weapons and utensils, and the natives themselves. Added to these is a carefully-prepared map of Alaska. Dr. Jackson, we are inclined to think, has been led unconsciously by the interest that he himself takes in the country to present it in far too favorable a light; certainly his statements in regard to its material resources are almost diametrically opposed to the recent very gloomy report upon the country published by order of the Secretary of the Treasury. However, the judicious reader can throw off a moderate discount upon the score of the author's enthusiasm; and as the first really careful and measurably comprehensive work upon this unknown land the book is welcome and is entitled to serious attention.

Albany Cultivator & Country Gentleman

Alaska and Patagonia.—Two books of travel, from the pens of devoted missionaries, relating to countries at the extreme limits of the American continent, are published by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. of New-York, and for sale in Albany by S. R. Gray, each making a handsome duodecimo of something over 300 pages. The titles are: "ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D.; and "ADVENTURES IN PATAGONIA," by the Rev. TITUS COAN, with an introduction by Dr. Henry M. Field. The work first named, which is accompanied with a map and numerous woodcuts, embodies an important contribution to knowledge, and will have value for many readers not especially interested in the matter of christianizing the heathen. The extent, resources, and large population (such as it is) of our northwestern province, are hardly appreciated, we think, by the intelligent public generally; and Dr. Jackson's vivid description must open, for many minds, an unexpected revelation.

Dayton Religious Telescope

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Illustrated. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. Price \$1.50. Sold by W. J. Shuey.

This is a welcome work, and is worthy an extensive sale. We have known as yet but little of the character of this new acquisition to our territory. This book will throw immense light upon it. Alaska has been set down as a huge "stone pile," or iceberg. The author of this book teaches us that Alaska, before many years, will be found to be a great acquisition. Its climate is far better than is generally supposed; its soil is good, while its mining, timber, and fishing resources are almost inexhaustible. It gives a striking detail of the labors of the author and his associates as missionaries; and also presents a good view of the work of other churches, besides that of the Presbyterian Church, with which the author is connected. The first part of the book presents the sadly heathen features and practices of that country, while other portions show the success of the gospel. It has nearly a hundred excellent illustrations. The portrait of the author appears as a frontispiece. The book ought to awaken a deep missionary zeal.

Cleveland Voices

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

The general knowledge regarding Alaska is extremely limited, and the public interest respecting that portion of our national possessions, is by no means extensive. It is, however, shown by this volume to be an exceedingly interesting region, which may yet realize all the great advantages that Mr. Seward claimed for it when he urged its purchase by the Government. The author of this work presents the most complete and entertaining account of the country and its people yet given. The volume is copiously illustrated.

THE Christian Standard.

EDITED BY

ISAAC ERRETT, 180 Elm street, Cincinnati.

ALASKA, and Missions of the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Cincinnati: For sale by George E. Stevens & Co., 39 West Fourth street. pp. 327. Price \$1.50.

This is a much needed book. The American people generally need trustworthy information concerning the resources of a region destined to prove an important part of our territorial possessions. The writer is the first Presbyterian minister that visited Alaska in the interest of missions. He went thither in 1877. This book contains the results of his observations touching the features of the country and its productions; its population—their customs, religious beliefs, etc.; the various missions—Greek, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, in Alaska or on its borders, in British Colombia. It is a work whose value depends more on the novelty of its communications than on its literary excellence, though in a literary point of view it is respectable. It will be read with great interest.

Philadelphia Christian Recorder

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Meade & Company.

An exceedingly interesting volume, just such as the Christian side of the nation can well rejoice in; as to them especially, our extreme northwest possession promises to be valuable—at least for the present, on account of the rare opportunity it gives of introducing the church and the school house to a barbarous people.

Detroit Commercial Advertiser.

The second, as the title would indicate, is perhaps one of the most comprehensive accounts of everything in connection with a missionary life in that far off latitude ever offered to the public, and while descriptive chapters are full in every detail, it also gives illustrations and maps to better portray the scenes and events which it treats of. It is sold for \$1.50.

From CHICAGO INTER-OCEAN.

April 17 1890

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co: \$1.50.

This is a volume of 327 pages, very fully illustrated. It is a book full of valuable facts of history. It contains a folding map of this great country of 580,107 square miles, the most recent acquisition to our wealth. As the United States paid the round sum of \$7,200,000 for it, the owners should begin to inquire something of its people and resources, even before Alaska knocks at the door for membership as a dozen or more States. Mr. Jackson gives a very intelligent description of the country, its resources in every department, its climate, its soil, its people, and their habits. His illustrations are capital, and his publishers have done justice to the book. The Rev. Dr. Brady, writing from Alaska under date of May, 1878, says: "There has been no ice in Sitka last winter, and very little snow fell." "The tops of the rain-barrels, did not freeze to the thickness of a knife-blade." He speaks of the luxuriant growth of nearly all garden vegetation. A very intelligent account of the mission work of the Presbyterian Church is recited, and promises the best results. The entire book is one that will both interest and instruct. It is well written, and contains not a dull chapter.

The Golden Rule.

THE new discussion of Alaska which has sprung up will give fresh interest and value to a work on "Alaska and the missions of the North Pacific Coast," by Sheldon Jackson, D. D., an esteemed and faithful laborer in that field, just published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. It gives not only an account of the various missions which had been established among the Alaskans while under Russian rule, as well as of those which have recently been started by various Christian denominations of the United States, but it also describes very comprehensively the country and its native inhabitants, with their customs, superstitions and rites. A large number of illustrations, drawn on the spot, with a fine steel portrait of the author, add interest and value to the book.

TRAVEL.

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers. 1 vol., 327 pages; price, cloth, \$1.50.

Dr. Jackson is well known as the Superintendent of Presbyterian missions in the Far West, and his opportunities for giving a truthful, and therefore reliable, account of the customs, religion, modes of life, etc., of the people of that far-away region of Alaska, have been of the best. There is much that is new and strange in this book. Alaska, to the general reader, is almost an unknown land. Located away off in what has been called "the northwest corner of the universe," and under the shadow of Arctic icebergs, its inaccessibility and its bleakness have combined to keep the world in partial ignorance of it. Here, however, the best of Alaska is brought forward. Its peculiar geographical features and position, its wonderful scenery, are described and its resources enlarged upon. To the religious and mission-interested reader, the most attractive portions of the book will be those chapters recording the labors of the missionaries in their endeavors to elevate the natives from the depths of ignorance, superstition and idolatry in which they have so long existed. Cannibalism, polygamy, infanticide, widow-burning, the murder of the old and feeble still prevail, but the civilizing and humanizing efforts of the Christian teachers there are not without reward. Gradually, but surely, the work of reform is progressing. The natives, though brutish in their habits and instincts, are tractable and the youth especially docile and teachable. The book is profusely illustrated. For sale by Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago.

—A more interesting and important work is the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson's *Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast*, from the same publishers as the preceding. Dr. Jackson describes the geography, productions, races, religious opinions, and customs of the country, and gives the result of missionary labors among the people up to this time. Their ethnography and religion have not yet been well worked up. They seem to be docile and intelligent. The work is a valuable one.

New York

Phrenological

PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. 12mo, pp. 327. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

We are pleased to announce this book to the reader, as we are of those who regard the acquisition of Alaska by the United States as a grand stroke of diplomacy, and one of the most brilliant events during Mr. William H. Seward's occupancy of the Washington State Department. The character of this vast Territory is graphically described by Dr. Jackson. Even far north, in the vicinity of Fort Yukon, the warmth of the summer

clothes the land with verdure and flowers, and permits the gardener to raise a great variety of vegetables and fruits, while the southern regions—the Aleutian and Sitkan districts—offer to the colonist opportunities almost unsurpassed in any other country for agricultural, mining, and lumber enterprises. The ordinary maps do scant justice to the island wealth of the Alaskan waters. The great Alexander Archipelago, which extends 300 miles from north to south, and 75 miles east and west, contains over 1,100 islands. There are other groups of islands—the Kadiak and Aleutian being noteworthy. We are given many data from high authority concerning the resources of the Territory and its immense prospective value to the United States.

The efforts by missionaries to improve the condition of the natives of the Territory constitute the larger portion of the book. Such is the low moral state of the Alaskans that Christianity has a wide field there. Probably no other people can be found among whom women are more oppressed and degraded. In their behalf, schools and asylums have been already organized. At Fort Wrangell a Presbyterian mission was established in August, 1877, by Dr. Jackson and a lady, and it has done very much for the people of the region in which it is situated.

We commend the book to those who would have a realizing glimpse of this new and great section of our country, and to the philanthropical who would have the heathen Christianized.

American Bookseller

Alaska, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson (Dodd, Mead & Co.), is a fully illustrated book upon this portion of our domains, and, though rather dryly and statistically written, is interesting for the information it conveys. A large portion is given to the account of missionary labors among the natives, and especially to the McFarland Home for the education and protection of young girls at Fort Wrangell.

The Churchman.

B.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. [New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.] 12mo, cloth, pp. 327.

The reader will find in these pages a variety of information. The author gives a description of Alaska, its physical geography, the character and customs of its inhabitants, its climate, resources, and superstitions. He traces the history of the missionary work done there—in the way of establishing churches and schools—by the Presbyterians of the United States, and also adds a sketch of what has been accomplished by the Church Missionary Society of England and by the Methodists in British Columbia, on the borders of Alaska. The book shows what may be called a business rather than a literary spirit. The author tells what he has to say in a straightforward way, without much regard for method. Those who desire information concerning that comparatively unknown portion of our national domain will find plenty of it in these pages.

San Francisco
Daily
Evening Post.

ALASKA AND THE MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson. Fully illustrated. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. For sale by Billings, Harbourn & Co.

The growing importance of this northern territory makes all information of its resources and condition most acceptable to the American public. The present volume is a comprehensive book, giving a full description of the country its productions, customs, religions, people, traditions, climate, mineral springs and laws. The illustrations, which are numerous and well executed, are mostly of the peculiar manufactures and implements of the natives and their homes, and of the mission church establishments there. Considerable space is given to a most intelligent portrayal of the religious condition of the people, and in connection with the pictures of the churches there, give us a very good idea of what has been done for this distant dependency. Dr. Jackson, by the publication of this volume at this time, has answered a growing demand for information, and has given to the world a much needed fund of material facts.

Buffalo Express.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Cloth, 12mo. Pp. 327. New-York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by Ulbrich & Kingsley. \$1.50.

Alaska is indeed a great country, being as large as all the United States east of the Mississippi and north of the Carolinas. From Dr. Jackson's account it would seem that in some respects it very strongly resembles the island of Ceylon,

"Where every prospect pleases
And only man is vile."

The resources of the country are certainly great, and the climate far milder than would seem possible at so high a latitude, but if any portion of the world certainly needs governing and Christianizing this is the portion. It would seem that so far the removal of Russian authority has been an almost unmixed evil to the inhabitants. We give them no government at all, but leave them to their own devices, which are far from sweet. The plan of this work is rather confused, and renders it difficult for the reader to decide whether the impressions he derives are from the authority of Dr. Jackson or from those of the several other authorities quoted by him. The number of illustrations scattered through the volume is almost as great as the diversity in their merit. Not that any are very good, but some go almost as far into the depths of artistic total depravity as the cuts which adorn Mark Twain's books.

The Christian Leader,
BOSTON,
Thursday, May 27, 1880.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

As a sketch of the recently acquired country—as a detailed account of the manners and customs of the natives, and as a summary of missionary movements, Dr. Jackson's book is replete with interest. The style is not very ambitious, but the matter is attractive.

Chicago Christian Advocate

A part of our own country, not too well known, is brought to the attention of readers through the "Alaska" of Rev. Sheldon Jackson. It is now thirteen years since Mr. Seward completed the purchase of our north-western possession from Russia, paying what

was generally regarded as a very great price (\$7,200,000) for many square miles of frozen land, and glaciers intermingled with more than the usual number of volcanoes and hot springs for variety. But it seems that Alaska is more valuable than was at first supposed. The Russians never explored it for any other purpose than to obtain furs, and this trade is now worth annually \$1,000,000. Owing to the Siwo Kuro, a warm ocean stream not unlike the gulf stream of the Atlantic, the entire northwest coast of North America is bathed in warm air, and made to resemble the climate of England. Thermometric observations taken at Sitka for the last forty-five years, show that it possesses a winter climate no more severe than that of Kentucky. The thermometer recorded below zero only four times in these forty-five years, and the extremest cold was only four degrees below. At this place cabbages, peas, carrots, parsnips, turnips, lettuce, radishes, onions, and generally such vegetables as require in our latitude only a part of the summer to mature in, flourish. Red and black currants, gooseberries, cranberries, raspberries and several others come to maturity. The region around and south of Sitka abounds in dense forests of large trees; the fisheries are as rich as any in the world, and the Seal islands, St. George and St. Paul, furnish the world the greater portion of its supply of these much-desired furs. In the last nine years the United States government has received for its rental of these islands the sum of two and a half million dollars. The greater part of Alaska is further south than either Norway or Sweden, and Sitka itself is in the latitude of Aberdeen, Scotland. The Aleutian islands, which are a part of Alaska, stretch southwestward into the Pacific more than a thousand miles, the southern islands of the archipelago being in about the latitude of London. There seems no reason why this land, comprising more than half a million square miles, may not become densely populated, at least along the coast, with a hardy and intelligent people. The Presbyterian church of this country and the Canadian Methodists have established missions among the Indians at Sitka and Fort Wrangell. This volume, which is published by Dodd & Mead, is full of interest, and contains a large number of helpful illustrations.

A Missionary in Alaska.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., whose service as a missionary has made him familiar with Alaska and its people, has put forth a book entitled "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast."

So little is really known in this country concerning the land purchased of Russia by the United States, and that little is so vaguely held in mind, that most readers, whether interested in missions or not, will turn to Dr. Jackson's work with a somewhat eager anticipation of interest. Unluckily the author has suffered his natural and praiseworthy interest in missionary work to blind him somewhat to his opportunities. With his minute knowledge of the country and people written about he might easily have made a work of the widest popular interest which would have answered his missionary purpose quite as well as the book he has actually given us is likely to do.

As it is, he has told us much that is interesting about Alaska and its people, although he has done so after the conventional manner of missionaries writing books which are meant to quicken zeal in behalf of missions. That is to say, he has dwelt chiefly upon those phases of his subject which suggest the necessity of missionary labors, and has written of them from that point of view making them texts for sermons, instead of recording the facts with a literary purpose and leaving them to work out their own proper results. It thus comes about that he has made his work less satisfactory to the reader in search of information than it might have been.

This is not mentioned here by way of complaint, though from some points of view it is a fact to be regretted, because the opportunity to make a book of the rarest interest seems to have been an excellent one. If the author, with his paramount purpose to quicken missionary zeal, has chosen to neglect this opportunity, we may not blame him, however much we may regret the loss.

Incidentally he has put a good many interesting facts upon record. He has described the country, recording facts about its climate and resources which will surprise those persons who have thought of Alaska merely as a bleak and desolate Arctic desert. He has pictured the state of the people with tolerable fulness of detail, and has described, though too briefly, many of their most significant customs.

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Women, of course, are degraded and oppressed; women are always degraded and oppressed among savage and semi-savage peoples. So uniform is this law that it is not only possible but easy to make safe deductions with respect to the treatment of women in any country from a knowledge of the general state of the people, or, reversing the process, to estimate the general state of the people from facts with reference to the treatment of women. But in writing of this subject Dr. Jackson presents the facts in a somewhat unsatisfactory and perplexing shape, in consequence, doubtless, of the fact that he writes with a paramount purpose other than that of the traveller. He tells us that the killing of girl babes by their mothers is common, particularly among the tribes on the Yukon River, and that in consequence of this practice the women are fewer in number than the men; yet in the same chapter he says that polygamy is common among many tribes, and adds that "on the upper Yukon the man multiplies his wives as the farmer his oxen."

It is not easy to see how this multiplication of wives can continue to be a prevalent custom among tribes where the men outnumber the women, and an ordinary traveller would have taken pains to explain the apparent contradiction. Dr. Jackson neglects to do so, probably because his attention is devoted chiefly to his missionary purpose, and the facts recorded are given with reference to their bearing upon that purpose. Of course we do not mean to suggest that either of the assertions mentioned is untrue; it is certain that both are true, and that if the author had observed the apparent contradiction he would have explained the difficulty satisfactorily, but his failure to observe or explain it illustrates what we mean when we say that his intentness upon a paramount purpose has prevented him from making his book so valuable as it might have been made, to ordinary readers, and it is only for the purpose of illustrating this that we have referred to the apparent contradiction.

It will surprise most readers to learn that a sort of suttee prevails in some parts of Alaska. Widows are not burned to death upon their dead husbands' funeral pyres, it is true, but they are required to undergo torture by burning which stops just short of death, and to carry the ashes of their husbands upon their persons for prolonged periods.

There are some other customs relating to women in Alaska which may well interest every reader, and which lend additional color to the conjectures of those theorists who fancy that they discover in Indian customs and notions traces of ancient Jewish rites.

In the main the work is devoted to an account of the missionary work done in Alaska, and this account is well calculated both to encourage the supporters of Alaskan missions and to stimulate zeal in behalf of the efforts making to carry civilization and Christianity to a peculiarly benighted race, which seems to be better prepared than most races of equal degradation are to receive benefit from missionary efforts.

Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers, New York.

Chicago Evening Journal

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers. 1 vol., 327 pages; price, cloth, \$1.50.

Dr. Jackson is well known as the Superintendent of Presbyterian missions in the Far West, and his opportunities for giving a truthful, and therefore reliable, account of the customs, religion, modes of life, etc., of the people of that far-away region of Alaska, have been of the best. There is much that is new and strange in this book. Alaska, to the general reader, is almost an unknown land. Located away off in what has been called "the northwest corner of the universe," and under the shadow of Arctic icebergs, its inaccessibility and its bleakness have combined to keep the world in partial ignorance of it. Here, however, the best of Alaska is brought forward. Its peculiar geographical features and position, its wonderful scenery, are described and its resources enlarged upon. To the religious and mission-interested reader, the most attractive portions of the book will be those chapters recording the labors of the missionaries in their endeavors to elevate the natives from the depths of ignorance, superstition and idolatry in which they have so long existed. Cannibalism, polygamy, infanticide, widow-burning, the murder of the old and feeble still prevail, but the civilizing and humanizing efforts of the Christian teachers there are not without reward. Gradually, but surely, the work of reform is progressing. The natives, though brutish in their habits and instincts, are tractable and the youth especially docile and teachable. The book is profusely illustrated. For sale by Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago.

STON SATURDAY

EVENING GAZETTE.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1880. 12mo. 327. (J. K. Shryock.)

This may be considered a hand-book—and a very good one—of the interesting region to which it is devoted. It goes over the ground very systematically, in a quiet, instructive fashion, backing up the text with very numerous pictures, which vary a good deal in artistic merit, and drawing freely upon the best sources of information. The history of Missions is of special value, and carries us into the very heart of the home life of Christian workers among the Savages of Alaska. Mr. Seward considered the purchase of Alaska the most important act of his official life, though he admitted that two generations might pass before the act would be justly appreciated. But merely as a field of missions, in which possession gives us facility, Alaska should be prized by us. We at least are certain of one better thing than its value to us,—we can be of value to it. If we are faithful to that trust we will be repaid a thousand fold.

St Louis Missionary Record

"ALASKA," and Missions of the North Pacific Coast. By Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, publishers. For sale by H. R. Hildredth & Co., St. Louis. Pages, 324. Price by mail, \$1 50.

A book of unusual attractions and of rare information on a subject about which too little is known. Especially recommended by us to members of missionary societies, reading clubs, etc.

Boston Courier.

Those who are interested in missionary labors will doubtless find a religious satisfaction and a mournful pleasure in turning the pages of two volumes recently issued by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. One is by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson D.D., and is entitled *Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast*, and the other is from the pen of the Rev. Titus Coan and is called *Adventures in Patagonia, a Missionary's Exploring Trip*. The first mentioned is profusely illustrated, and the last has an introduction by the Rev. Henry M. Field, D. D.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST, by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., is not only a very striking record of the labors of the author and his associates as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, and of the work of the Methodist and British Church missions in other quarters, but a good description of our national purchase from Russia. In Jackson's opinion Alaska, before many years, will be found to be a great acquisition. Its climate is far better than is generally supposed; its soil is good, while its mining, timber, and fishing resources are almost inexhaustible. The book will arouse the enthusiasm of those interested in missionary enterprises, for it details genuine successes, and it will also give most readers a clearer idea of Alaska than they at present have. The text is profusely illustrated, and a steel portrait of the author is given by way of frontispiece. New York; Dodd & Mead; Cincinnati: Robt. Clarke & Co.

National Baptist Philadelphia

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By SHELDON JACKSON, D. D. Fully Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 327. Price, \$1.50 New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co. On sale by American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

We were but little prepared to understand that magnificent portion of the federal domain called Alaska, until we read this charming volume. Alaska is magnificent in extent of territory, covering 580,107 square miles, as large as ten Pennsylvanias; magnificent in climate, the cold seldom reaching zero on its southern coast; and magnificent in its resources of mineral wealth, lumber, fisheries, fur, and vegetable productions. Hon. Wm. H. Seward, under whose Secretaryship it was purchased, regarded this as the most important act of his Ministerial life, although he said "it might take two generations before the purchase was appreciated." The first half of the book sets forth with great distinctness the natural peculiarities of this great country, its people, productions, climate, commerce, and the like; the latter half is more particularly devoted to the mission work assumed and successfully carried on by the Presbyterians. It contains a large number of illustrations, which add greatly to its value, although we cannot see why

Alaska. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson. [Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.]

Adventures in Patagonia. By Rev. Titus Coan. [Do., do. \$1.25.]

These books are alike in that they are written by American missionaries, that they are recitals of missionary enterprise and achievement, and that they relate to scenes in lands which may fitly be called the ends of the earth. But here the resemblance ceases. Dr. Jackson's *Alaska* is a store-book of facts gathered partly out of the cyclopedias and partly from personal observation gained in a recent visit, the whole of which suffices to give the reader a very good idea of the aspect and resources of the country, and to judge of its value as an acquisition and of its desirability as a place of residence or of commercial venture.

The narrative portion is of secondary importance. Taken for what it professes to be, it is a useful work, and conveys a really large amount of information in a compact and interesting way. It is illustrated with a profusion of very much battered woodcuts, and there are not a few picturesque word descriptions in the text.

THE Baltimore Methodist

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. For sale at 168 W. Baltimore street.

This is the completest account we have of the immense territory of Alaska--our ponderous purchase from Russia. Dr. Jackson has given us a volume of great interest. Its account of the extent and resources of this Pacific region is elaborate in description and illustration, and will repay a careful perusal. Some of the facts are startling. As an appeal for State and missionary aid, it is very conclusive. It is hoped the churches will wake up to the religious needs of this singular region.

The Argus

Company. Albany: S. R. Gray.

Alaska is the latest acquisition of territory made by the United States government. It was purchased of Russia at a cost of \$7,200,000. The treaty which was made by Secretary Seward, March 30, 1867, was ratified by the United States Senate October 18, 1867, and immediately thereafter the vast territory thus secured was given over to the possession of our government. And thus another of the great European powers retired from the Western World. In this same manner France and Spain had preceded Russia in disposing of possessions on the North American continent, and contiguous to our territory. Mr. Seward regarded the purchase of Alaska the most important act of his official life. But as he was somewhat of a prophet, he thought it might take two generations before the purchase would be fully appreciated. The territory of Alaska covers an area equal to the original thirteen States of the Union. In other words, Alaska is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river and north of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. Its extreme breadth from east to west, is two thousand two hundred miles in an air line. According to Professor Guyot, a recognized authority on all geographical matters, the island of Attu, in Alaska, is as far west of San Francisco, as the coast of Maine is east of that city; or, in other words, San Francisco is the great middle city between the extreme east and west of the United States. The extreme breadth of Alaska from north to south is one thousand four hundred miles. The shore line up and down the bays and around the islands, according to the United States Coast Survey, measures twenty-five thousand miles, or two and one half times more than the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of the remaining portion of the United States. The coast of Alaska, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. These statements give an idea of the extent of our latest territorial purchase. Of what value it is to be to our country remains to be seen. Its population at the time of the purchase from Russia, was estimated by the agents of the Russian government at about 66,000. In this book of 327 pages, Dr. Jackson has condensed a large amount of information respecting this vast domain. It is a cold, inhospitable region. Its principal value, so far as at present known, is in its seal and other fishing. It is claimed that much mineral wealth exists there; but if such is the case, it remains to be developed. The accounts given us concerning the civilization of the region are by no means attractive, and there is no probability that emigration will set in that direction for centuries to come.

From CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

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ALASKA AND PATAGONIA.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson was the first American missionary who visited our Northern Territory of Alaska. He appears to have been favorably impressed with everything he saw, except the condition of the natives and the tardiness with which appeals for assistance in the missionary field were responded to. Aided by Mrs. McFarland,—a noble, self-sacrificing woman, who has made Alaska her home and the Indians there her especial care,—Mr. Jackson established a Mission School, an Industrial Home, and other similar institutions, and really accomplished, with the assistance of others, a great deal for which he is justly thankful. So far as we are led to form any conclusion as to the merit of his work, however, after a careful reading of his book, it seems very clear that the greater part of the burden was borne by others,—just as the greater part of the book is composed of letters written to him by those who lived and worked at Fort Wrangell and at Sitka. That the author explored the field, ascertained its needs and wants, advised in all things that were undertaken for its cultivation, is true, and greatly to his credit. The information he furnishes about the climate, topography, geography, geology, and history of Alaska is interesting to those who care anything about a territorial subdivision of our country which is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi River and north of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. But even here Mr. Jackson's information is largely borrowed from other sources, and some of his statements are too highly colored to be accepted without considerable modification. Particularly is this true of his pictures of the genial climate of Alaska, and its adaptability for fruits, flowers, and vegetables. But a great deal of useful information is contained in the first third of the book, and the illustrations—although carelessly and badly printed—give some new ideas about our Northern acquisition, its citizens, and their daily life. The remaining two-thirds of the not very large work is the narrative, told by the missionaries themselves, of their work and their success among the heathen.

Of the people we may say that their moral degradation is almost inconceivable. There is no particular reason why it should not be, since their moral instruction has never been very faithfully attended to, but we realize what absolute and utter human degradation means when we read some of Mr. Jackson's statements. The women especially are regarded as somewhat inferior to brutes. The theory of the Alaska Indian is apparently that woman came into the world by mistake, and the only way he can help her to rectify the mistake is by putting her out of it as speedily as possible. Says Mr. Jackson: "Despised by their fathers, sold by their mothers, imposed upon by their brothers, ill-treated by their husbands, cast out in their widowhood, living lives of toil and low sensual pleasure, untaught and uncared for, with no true enjoyment in this world and no hopes for the world to come, crushed by a cruel heathenism, it is no wonder that many of them end their earthly misery and wretchedness with suicide." And Capt. Mergan, a veteran whaling captain,

adds:

"I have read all that my Brother Sheldon Jackson has published concerning Alaska, and I know of but one mistake he makes. He does not say enough. He has not told you one-half the degradation of those Northern Indians, and I do not know where the suffering comes heavier than on the women, who are slaves and beasts of burden. These pictures our brother has given are not strong enough. You would wish that the human family could be more at so w."

Some interesting statements are made in regard to Sitka, which was once a proud commercial city, the centre of an extensive commerce, and capital of a large province, with many schools and seminaries. It has a beautiful, island-studded bay, and it is thought that the opening of the gold mines and the great salmon-canning interests will tend to revive its former prosperity. It was first visited by Baranoff in 1799, who built a fort which he called Fort Archangel Gabriel, and took possession of the country for Russia. Three years later the Indians rose, captured the fort, and murdered all the officers and thirty men. In 1804 Baranoff returned and recaptured the town and built Fort Archangel Michael, the settlement taking the name of New Archangel. From 1809 shipbuilding became one of the industries of the place. In 1810 Sitka was visited by the Enterprise, one of the ships of John Jacob Astor's fur company. The same year a Greek priest arrived in a sloop-of-war to minister to the colonists. The first resident physician did not reach Sitka until ten years later. In 1832 Baron Wrangell transferred the Capital of Russian America from St. Paul to Sitka. In 1834 it was made the seat of a Bishopric. In 1837 the first steam-engine was introduced into the colony. The schools were discontinued in 1867, and no others supplied their place until the arrival of the Rev. John G. Brady and Miss Kellogg, Presbyterian missionaries, in 1878.

That Alaska and the Alaskans may be civilized, taught, and made good citizens is evidently Mr. Jackson's belief, as it is also another tenet of his creed that this valuable acquisition of territory has been too long neglected by Government and by individuals. The pictures given are highly colored, and we think the author prone to being oversanguine and too confident. But there is no question as to the value of the work done and the importance of doing more if we wish to make anything at all out of the Territory of Alaska. The book has some typographical errors, the printing has been carelessly done, and the illustrations blurred.

San Francisco Sunday Chronicle

ALASKA AND THE MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by Billings, Harbottle & Co.

An excellent description is given in this little book of the great country whose resources are just beginning to attract the attention of capitalists. The author dwells particularly on the results of mission work among the Indians in Alaska. The native tribes are sunk in ignorance and superstition. Like all the tribes of the Western plains, they make laborers and pack animals of the women; infanticide is common, girls are sold into slavery, polygamy is common, and the old and feeble are quietly murdered. Much of the best work of the ladies who are engaged in the mission schools has been in saving from lives of shame young Indian girls whom their unnatural mothers were trying to sell into prostitution.

Pittsburg Methodist Recorder

The second volume, from the same publishers, is entitled, "Alaska; and Missions on the North Pacific Coast." By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. This is a volume of 326 pages, with numerous illustrations, and contains a mass of information in regard to this portion of our country, which has not hitherto been accessible to the general reader. The author, the well-known superintendent of home missions in the far west, made a tour through Alaska last summer, and in this volume gives the results of his observations and study, in a volume of far more than ordinary interest. He gives an account of the country itself, which is wonderful in extent and character, beyond what has been imagined of it by most persons. He also gives an interesting account of the inhabitants; their customs, superstitions and rites, with an account of the different missions established among them while under Russian authority, as well as those established since it has come into possession of the United States. Its style is attractive, its information important, and many of its incidents deeply touching and impressive. It is just such a book as everybody will be interested in reading.



HARTFORD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21.

A book of the missionary experiences of the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson among the natives of Alaska is published by the same firm. It shows the vast extent and natural resources of that country, now one of the possessions of the United States, and gives some vivid pictures of the degradation of the Indian women, of female infanticide, the sale of girls, female slavery, polygamy, cruel practices, widow-burning, the murder of the old and feeble, the work of the missions, and much other interesting matter concerning that great northland of the Pacific coast. Pictorial illustrations add to the interest and attractiveness of the book.

Both of these books are sold by Pond & Childs.

A RELIGIOUS FAMILY PAPER,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. For sale by J. K. Shryock. Price \$1.50.

When Secretary Seward was about retiring from public life, at a dinner given him in Washington, the question was asked: "Mr. Seward, what do you consider the most important act of your official life?" He replied: "The purchase of Alaska;" and then added: "But it may take two generations before the purchase is appreciated." The answer is memorable, and both parts will be verified. The purchase is *not* yet appreciated. Alaska is a by-word. It has not lost the early epithet of "Seward's Folly." But this book of Dr. Jackson opens our eyes to the fact of the extent and amazing resources of the country. The area is greater than that of the original thirteen states. Its soil and mineral wealth would make it capable of sustaining an immense population. Dr. Jackson visited the country with a special view of establishing a mission of the Presbyterian Church. While this volume gives all needed information on the *spiritual* condition of the *people*, their customs and manners and habits of life are set forth with great minuteness. This feature, with the numerous illustrations, and the clear, simple style of narrative, make the book one of the most attractive of the many recent books of travel.

THE WATCHMAN.

BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 24, 1880.

The other book is entitled "Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast." The author is Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D. Both books are very interesting, and convey a vast amount of information concerning the people, productions and prospects of these far-away and almost unknown countries. They are so cheap, too, that they are within the reach of all who may wish to read them.

New York
Methodist

Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, publish two valuable books of American travel and experience. "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. (price, \$1.50), contains a large number of illustrations and an excellent map; the author's experience is probably more extensive than that of any other traveller in that latest addition to the Republic. The furs and fisheries, the timber, the gold mines, the climate and the customs of Aleuts and Esquimaux, are all interesting topics, upon which this book contains useful information.

Baltimore
Methodist

ALA MISSIONS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. D. D. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Sold by D. H. Carroll, 168 W. Baltimore street. Price \$1.50.

We pass from Patagona to Alaska—from the extreme Southern to the extreme Northern terminus of Continental America. But while in both we find man degraded by savage ignorance and brutality we find in both a susceptibility to the benign influences and elevating power of the Gospel. We well remember, as do many of our readers, the exciting debate in Congress during the session of 1867-8 over Mr. Seward's treaty with Russia for the purchase of her American possessions. And when it was announced that \$7,200,000 had been given for that vast desolate region skirting the Polar circle, and known as Alaska, the people were indignant at what was termed "Seward's folly." But the Secretary of State exhibited in this matter his usual astuteness. This immense region, fitly termed "Al-ak-shah," "a great country"—with an area of 580,107 square miles, and a shore line of 25,000 miles, as large as all the Uni-

and North Carolina—has been found to be something more than a continent of icebergs, inaccessible mountain peaks and snow fields. Its productive fisheries and fur trade, and its yet undeveloped mineral resources, promise to give it a commercial importance that will yet confirm Mr. Seward's declaration—that it would take two generations to learn the value of the purchase. The royalties on the fur trade alone paid into the United States treasury from 1871 to 1880 over \$2,500,000, more than one-third the original cost of the whole domain.

Dr. Jackson has here given us quite a full account of the topographical features of the country, the customs, religious opinions and rites of the people, and the result of missionary labor thus far among them. Three men have figured quite prominently in these missions: Rev. Innocentius Veniaminoff, of the Greek Church; Rev. Mr. Duncan, of Church Missionary Society, London; and Rev. Thomas Crosby, of the Methodist Church of Canada, who has been operating at Fort Simpson on the borders of Alaska. These devoted men have, under God, accomplished a good work, and paved the way for yet more extensive operations. As this region is now under the fostering care of our government, it is to be hoped the Churches in the United States will give it a due share of their attention. This timely and well written book should have the effect to stimulate missionary enterprise in that direction.

The Washington Post.

"Alaska" is the name of an interesting and very readable volume by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, and fully illustrated. The characteristics of the people of Alaska, the strange customs, the wild scenery and the hunting and fishing are described as only an educated man and an acute observer would do.

THE BOSTON TIMES:

ALASKA.

"Seward's folly," as some people have facetiously termed the legislation that closed the bargain with Russia, and in the place of some seven millions of dollars gave us Alaska, was not perhaps such a piece of foolishness after all; although, as the Secretary said, on being asked at the close of his official life, what he considered the most important act of that life, "the purchase of Alaska." The Secretary also added, "But it may take two generations before the purchase is appreciated," and there are indications, that before the expiration of that time Alaska will have done honor to "Seward's folly."

One of the latest publications on Alaska is one by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, in which a very comprehensive sketch of the country is given in connection with the history of the missionary work there since its first establishment by the Empress Catharine of Russia, in 1793. The author is not given to lauding the effects of his own labors as a missionary of the Presbyterian church, but while he speaks unreservedly of his own experiences, he is quick to award praise to other workers in the same vineyard, and from what he relates of the scenes which he witnessed, the public can rest assured that in Alaska can be found a practical application for all their charity money. The missionary tells a fearful tale of the degradation of the women in some portions of Alaska, which for reality is a good match for the stories told by his co-laborers in other wild countries. These harrowing pictures are happily interspersed with brighter reminiscences of travel, all being told in a vein of true Christian spirit which commends the subject to all readers. The work is published in an elegant cloth edition by Dodd, Mead & Co., of New York, and is sold by Estes & Lauriat of this city.

G. W. C.

Lutheran
Sunday School
Herald
Philadelphia

2. ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated, including steel portrait of the author. 12 mo., 327 pp.

The next volume presents a fascinating view of the vast north-west region recently purchased by our country from Russia. The geography, productions, capabilities, and religious aspects of the territory are set before us in a manner that is just the opposite of tedious. Indeed, the whole book reads like a romance; and it will certainly correct the notion which ridicule has striven to foster, that Alaska is an expensive nothing.

ALASKA. And Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Illustrated. \$1 50. New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.; Detroit, E. B. Smith & Co.

This book is profusely illustrated, and its sketches, though only ordinary wood cuts, are graphic, and of subjects well chosen to give the reader a striking idea of the country and its people, and their characteristics. Alaska is a country of enormous extent, and also of enormous possible future value. It contains the largest navigable river in the world, perhaps; vast and valuable forests; mineral treasures of all sorts, including the precious metals, iron, coal, copper, lead, and various other metals in deposits which may some day become very valuable; fisheries of vast extent and productiveness; a climate in general milder than that of Sweden and Norway; and a great variety of game, including the musk ox and wood buffalo. Its native inhabitants are in many respects superior to our Indians. They carve in wood, tattoo, cremate some of their dead, practice a sort of suttee in which the widow escapes only scorched and not burned to death, and are expert seamen in their frail crafts. It may be many years before the resources of Alaska are developed or put to civilized use; but the time will come when civilization will reach out to that now despised country and draw from its mines, forests and other resources vast additions to the wealth of the world. The soil will support a large population, potatoes, cabbages, turnips and various other edibles growing finely and yielding sure and large crops. The grains do not thrive well. The climate is not so severe as Norway's and Sweden's, which possess a large population and great cities. As this book is the record of a missionary, its value is greatly lessened to those who wish to gain information of the physical conditions of Alaska, by most of its space being devoted to the natives and their spiritual state. There are, however, dozens of pages from which interesting extracts may be made from this book. The following is a good example:

Among some Indians on the Upper Yukon, when a man dies his widow is compelled to ascend the burning funeral pile, throw herself upon the body and remain there until the hair is burned from her head and she is almost suffocated. She is then allowed to stagger from the pile, but most frequently thrusts her hand through the flames and places it upon his bosom, to show her continued devotion. If through pain or faintness she fails to perform her duties, she is held up and pressed forward by others, her cries and shrieks being drowned in wild songs and the beating of drums. Finally the ashes are gathered up and placed in a little sack, which the widow

"Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., is a book well worth reading, giving as it does a graphic account of a part of our possessions which is very little known, and the manners and customs of the inhabitants thereof. It will be news to most readers that Alaska has an area equal to the first thirteen States of the Union, with the great "Northwest Territory" added; or, in other words, Alaska is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river and north of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. Its extreme breadth from east to west is two thousand two hundred miles in an air line. Mr. Jackson believes in Alaska and its future, and gives many important facts in support of that belief. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, and for sale in this city by Judd the bookseller.

Home Magazine Philadelphia

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. A most interesting account of the situation, scenery, resources and population of our new territory— which, as may not be generally known, is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of the Carolinas. So far from being a frigid country, it is quite as temperate as the greater part of Great Britain, being warmed by the Japan current in the same manner that the British Isles and Norway are by the Gulf Stream. Its mineral wealth, and its abundance of timber forests, and fur-bearing animals, are truly something wonderful; so that we may well appreciate Secretary Seward's words in saying that he regarded the purchase of Alaska as the most important act of his public life. We may remark right here that the price paid for the whole territory was seven million two hundred thousand dollars, regarded by many at the time as outrageously extravagant; but in one year alone the United States treasury received more than half that sum, solely on account of taxes on furs.

But the most interesting part of the work relates to the people, to the state of extreme barbarity in which the mass of the population live; the great difficulties in the way of civilizing and Christianizing them, and the superhuman exertions of *one woman*, Mrs. A. R. MacFarland, in this direction, for a long time almost the only human creature who was able to accomplish anything for the poor savages.

The book presents Alaska as a wide field for scientific exploration, for extended enterprise and for Christian benevolence. Price, \$1.50.

THE OBERLIN REVIEW.

Alaska, by SHELDON JACKSON. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by E. J. Goodrich.

Since our country purchased Alaska from Russia, by paying \$7,200,000 about thirteen years ago, but little has been known or said of that vast territory which has been left almost wholly to the fur gatherers, miners, scientists and fishermen, with an occasional missionary penetrating its cheerless wastes or luxuriant wilds. The author of the above work has studied, in the capacity of a missionary, the climate, the boundless physical resources and the people of Alaska and has set forth the results of his travels and study and work, in that remote region, in a most valuable and entertaining volume. Many who read this book will be surprised to learn of the vast wealth of almost every description, that is stored up in Alaska, waiting to be developed; and many will be far more surprised to learn of the great number of human beings dwelling in what is usually supposed to be a desolate, uninhabited region. In spite of the noble work that has been done by the missions established in Alaska, the great majority of her population are still slaves to the most abject ignorance and superstition. There are many volumes of travels and missionary reports which come from the press that are dull and uninteresting. Not so with this book. It is handsomely gotten up and will be read with interest from beginning to end.

St Louis
Republican

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.—By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Illustrated. If there is any one part of their country that the American people know less about than another, it is Alaska. A missionary's book about Alaska is therefore acceptable, for whatever purpose it may have been written. This book is principally about the country, its people and their customs. It contains more facts about Alaska than any book that has yet appeared and will be read with pleasure. It is profusely illustrated, and the pictures add greatly to the interest and help to the understanding of the subject. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. 46

\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Proprietor*.

OFFICE—NO. 5 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.) We have all been so in the habit of thinking of Alaska as the most desolate and forsaken region imaginable, that Dr. Jackson's statements to the contrary will take his readers by surprise, and may even in some cases provoke to something like scepticism. He is convinced that it will by and by be regarded as one of the most valuable portions of the United States, and that instead of the seven millions of dollars expended on its purchase being looked on as so much money thrown away, the bargain will be regarded as the best even a Yankee ever made. The narrative of mission work given is a very interesting one, and, in short, one rises from the perusal of this book with a far different idea of Alaska and its resources than ever he had before, and one greatly more favourable. The degradation of the natives seems nearly as great as it well can be, and the success of the missionary work among them as gratifying as to some it may be surprising.

Baltimore Methodist
Protestant

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., Publishers. 12mo, 327pp., cloth. Price \$1.50. For sale by D. H. Carroll.

This book should find a welcome from the republic of letters the world over. When in 1867 the purchase of this empire was before the Congress of the United States, and was at last carried by the persistence of the friends of Secretary Seward, and it was transferred to us with all its sovereignty by the Russian Czar for seven millions of dollars, very diverse opinions were expressed as to the wisdom of the acquisition. Before the Secretary retired from office, being asked "What he thought his most noteworthy achievement as Secretary of State," answered, "The acquisition of Alaska, but it may take two generations to appreciate it." This book written apparently without prejudice or favor, seems to make this declaration of Mr. Seward a fact. It is full of illustrations, and is quite an exhaustive treatment of the subject.

BOSTON HOME JOURNAL.

ALASKA AND ITS INHABITANTS.

Comparatively little is generally known as yet concerning our last great northern acquisition away up between the Pacific and Arctic oceans, that makes the United States the nearest North American neighbor to Asia, separated only by the Behring strait. The last number of the American Antiquarian has an interesting article about Alaska and the people living there, written by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who has visited and explored the territory to some extent,—from which we glean the following. Alaska is an English corruption of Al-ak-shak, which name was given by the natives, meaning “the great land.” It is indeed a great land, covering over 580,107 square miles. It is the great island

region of the United States, rivalling in number and size the great archipelagoes of the Southern Pacific. These islands cover a total area of 31,000 square miles. Stretching along the Aleutian islands for 1500 miles are sixty-one volcanoes, ten of which are active. The magnificent Shishaldin, nearly 9000 feet above the waves that break on either base, Akuten, Makushin and others, are belching out fire and smoke.

This is also the great glacier region. From Bute inlet to Unimak pass nearly every deep gulch has its glacier, some of which are vastly greater and grander than any glacier of the Alps. The American student need no longer leave his own country to study glacial action. In one of the gulches of Mt. Fairweather is a glacier that extends fifty miles to the sea—where it breaks off a perpendicular ice wall 300 feet high and eight miles broad. Thirty-five miles above Wrangell, in the Stikine river, between two mountains 3000 feet high, is an immense glacier forty miles long, and at the base four to five miles across, and variously estimated from 500 to 1000 feet high or deep. Curiously enough, opposite this glacier, just across the river, are large boiling springs. The Indians regard this glacier as the personification of a mighty Ice God who has issued from his mountain home invested with power before which all nature bows with submission; and they have their mythological theories of how the Ice God was prevented from crossing the river. At one of these glaciers ships from California have anchored and taken in a cargo of ice. This region is also remarkable for hot and mineral springs; medicinal springs abound in great numbers, and variety sufficient to treat the diseases of the whole race. Goreloi, one of these, is a vast smoking cauldron, eighteen miles in circumference.

All the early navigators and explorers, from Cook to the present time, have spoken of the immense numbers of salmon, cod, herring, halibut, mackerel, etc., that abound in the waters of Alaska. There are no other such fisheries in the known world. The principal fur bearing animals of Alaska are the fox, martin, mink, beaver, otter, lynx, black bear, wolverine and ermine. There are also the coarser furs of

the reindeer, mountain sheep, goat, wolf and muskrat. These, with the seal fur fishery, have since 1871 yielded to the government an income of \$1,891,630. In time this business can be extended so as to yield a sum almost beyond compute. There are also valuable deposits of coal, copper, sulphur, petroleum and amber, with gold and silver; but the gold and silver have thus far been found only in limited quantities. Further explorations are very likely to bring these precious metals to light to an extent almost equal to California, and then the American people will encounter all obstacles, and cities and towns will spring up with a rapidity that has ceased to be wonderful.

This is the great lumber region of the country. The forests of yellow cedar, white pine, hemlock and balsam fir will supply the world when the valuable timber of Puget sound is exhausted. It has the great mountain peak of the country—St. Elias, 19,500 feet high, and the Yukon is one of the largest rivers in the world, being 2000 miles long, navigable for steamers for 1500 miles. In some places on the lower Yukon one bank is invisible from the other. A thousand miles above its mouth it is, in places, twenty miles wide, including the intervening islands.

The native races in Alaska number about 25,000; there are 300 to 400 Russians, and about 500 Americans and others. The Indians can be divided into three great classes: the Innuit, of the Yukon district; the Aleutian and the Tusk of the Sikan district. And these again are divided into tribes, settlements and families. These are largely in a condition of degraded superstition, and liable to all the horrible cruelties of heathenism. The old, sick and useless are put to death with various cruelties and disgusting rites. The women are in the most degraded and slavish condition. Polygamy, with all its attendant evils, is common among the Kaviaks and other tribes. These wives are often sisters; and sometimes a man's own mother or daughter is among his wives. After marriage they are practically slaves of their husbands. Their persons are at the disposal of visitors or traveling guests of their husbands. Sometimes they are traded off by the husband for something he may desire. When a young girl arrives at maturity she is considered unclean; everything she comes in contact with, and even the sky she looks upon, is considered unclean. She is therefore thought to be unfit for the sun to smile upon, and is confined for a year in a hut so small that she cannot stand upright in it. Only the girl's mother is allowed to approach her, and she only to bring her food. At the close of this imprisonment she is taken out, her old clothes burned, new ones provided, and a feast given, during which a slit is cut in her under lip, parallel with the mouth, and a piece of wood or shell inserted to keep the aperture extended. And as if their ordinary condition was not bad enough, the majority of the slaves are women. The men captured in war are usually killed or reserved for torture; but the women are kept as beasts of burden, and often treated with great inhumanity. The master's power over them is unlimited. He can torture or put them to death at will. Upon the death of the master, one or more of them are frequently put to death, that he may have some one to wait upon him in the next world. Among many of the tribes the bodies of the men are burned, and the ashes carefully preserved. But in some sections, where wood is scarce, the bodies of women are not considered worth the wood that would be consumed in the burning, and they are either cast out, to be consumed by the dogs, foxes and crows, or thrown into the sea as food for the fishes. A summary cure for crying babies is to take them to the seashore and hold them in the

water until they cease crying. Cannibalism is also practiced among some of these tribes, and one of the missionaries gave Mr. Jackson some horrible details of acts of cannibalism that had come under his own knowledge.

So it seems that within the territories of the United States the most horrible and disgusting practices ever known in the world are carried on, and the customs of the most degraded heathenism prevail. Surely here is abundant field for missionary labor under our own flag. The resources of Alaska are so rich, that we think in time a great population of American people will be settled there, and with them the march of civilization will gradually reduce these Indian tribes and purge the remnants of the worst features of their heathenism.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

A few weeks ago we published an article about Alaska and its Inhabitant, which was made up from advance sheets of this valuable work; and we feel sure that the facts there given will be a strong incentive for our readers to procure this volume, which gives such full and complete information concerning the great extent of Alaska, its many remarkable physical features, its wonderful mineral resources, the manners and customs of its people, who are divided into tribes, some of which are much more degraded than others. The women are especially in a most degraded condition, and it is a common practice for Indian mothers to sell their own daughters in the mines for the basest purposes, as well as for the Indians to dispose of their wives in the same manner. But the devoted missionaries who have been and are working so faithfully there, have already done much towards bringing this degrading practice to an end. They have established schools and an industrial home in connection with the mission buildings, and their success with the Indian girls has been of the most encouraging character. Graphic and deeply interesting accounts are given of the labors, trials and successes of the missionaries, of prospecting canoe voyages, discoveries and adventures. There are eighty-seven illustrations, including a fine portrait of Dr. Sheldon Jackson and a map of Alaska. Price, \$1.50; for sale by Estes & Lauriat, 391 Washington street.

*Am. Mail
Journal & Messenger*

This book seems well calculated to supply the existing lack of popular information concerning this part of the American republic. The country, its extent, natural phenomena, resources, population, etc., are thoroughly discussed. The social and religious status of the people is minutely and graphically detailed and the present condition of missionary enterprises described. Old traditions and heathenish customs are presented and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is demonstrated, as its influence is traced in the modified and converted lives of these degraded savages. The illustrations are numerous and clear.

Journal of Education.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Price, \$1.50.

Ever since the purchase of this icy section of the globe by the United States from Russia, there has been a romantic desire to know more of its extent, natural phenomena, the productions and occupations of its native population, their customs and condition, and the prospects of bringing them into the embrace of our civilization. All these questions, and many others of great interest, are happily answered by Dr. Jackson, in this deeply interesting and instructive book. The well-executed map and the striking illustrations aid much in making the text clear and comprehensive to the student and the general reader. The chapter on the condition of the Indian women of Alaska is one that should stimulate every philanthropist to lend any possible aid to efforts of missionaries and others to ameliorate their degraded state. This book deserves an extensive sale and a wide reading. It is presented to the public in the attractive style which has always characterized the publications of Dodd, Mead & Co.

Our Record.

BUFFALO, MAY, 1880.

"Alaska, Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by the same publishers, contains an equally unique history of the country, which is as vivid a contrast to that "stepping off" place in South America, as the vast difference of space and climate which separates them.

This work is much more elaborate, being profusely illustrated with wood cuts, and giving a very minute account of the people, customs, manufactures and public works, monuments and buildings found in this northern clime. The Esquimaux are better known to us, and perhaps a little more interesting than their southern antipodals; but in either case the missionary needs all the courage and patience that God's grace can give him, thus to immolate himself on the altar of duty. We commend both works to all interested in the missionary fields.

49 Portland Christian Mirror Albany Evening Times

ALASKA, and MISSIONS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. \$1.50. Dodd, Mead & Co., Publishers.

This book is full of graphic descriptions of the great extent of country, its islands, various tribes, fisheries etc, and is fully illustrated. While some of its chapters vividly portray the utter degradation of the women, others are full of thrilling scenes of cannibalism, horrid rites and customs among the men. These dark pages of Alaskan history are succeeded, however, by the introduction of Christianity among the natives, the establishment of churches, homes, and mission schools, and the abandonment of vice in its most repulsive forms. The book cannot fail to deepen the interest of American people in this their new possession, with its many resources and budding promises for the future; a goodly land, truly, and worthy of the efforts of the noble missionaries who in the whitening fields call for more harvesters.

Michigan Christian Herald.

ALASKA. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. 1 vol. 12mo, with map, portrait, and nearly 100 illustrations. Price \$1.50. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. John Willyoung, Detroit.

This profusely illustrated volume gives, first, a comprehensive description of Alaska, its peculiar geographical features, wonderful scenery, resources etc., with a particular account of the native inhabitants, their customs, manner of life, superstitions, and the missions established among them by Russian, English and American missionaries. Dr. Jackson is well known as the superintendent of Presbyterian missions in the far West, and he has given the results of his own observation in a tour made in Alaska in 1879. The style is vigorous, and the book full of interest from first to last.

"Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., (with a portrait of the author) is an account of our vast and almost unknown possession in the Northwest, that will be welcomed. It is an account of the country and its resources; of its native population, their mode of living, habits, religious beliefs; the degradation of women, sale of girls, polygamy and widow burning; and of the progress of schools and missions. The author thinks, with Mr. Seward, that we do not begin to appreciate the value of this vast acquisition, which is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river and north of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. It can supply the world with salmon, herring and halibut of the best quality. It is the great reserve lumber region of the United States. The southeastern section is densely covered with thousands of square miles of yellow cedar, white spruce, hemlock and balsam fir. The value of this book is greatly increased by a map of Alaska and about 100 illustrations; these are of the natural scenery, of houses and settlements, the animals common to the region, the native utensils and implements in domestic use or for hunting, fishing or fighting, and illustrative also of the religious and social ceremonies of the Indians. The volume will give the reader a sufficient idea of this wild land and its uncivilized inhabitants. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. Edwin Ellis & Co, Albany.)

Cleveland

Standard of the Cross.

ADVENTURES IN PATAGONIA. By the Rev. Titus Coan. pp. 319. \$1.25.

ALASKA. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. pp. 327. \$1.50.

Dodd, Mead & Co., have in these two books set forth, what cannot fail to be interesting accounts of travel, life and missionary activity in the two extremities of the American continents. At the south, the missionary was entirely cut off from the protection of civilized nations, and was for some weeks momentarily at the mercy of the wayward passions of the savages. The northern traveler was within the circuit of civilization so far as government stations, forts, mines, and so on, are evidences of the higher conditions of man in this age; but some of the savages with whom he met are among the most brutal and degraded on the face of the earth. Nevertheless the northern field is much the more hopeful for missionary endeavor, and missions of all sorts are in active operation in that region.

Herald and Presbyterian.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 17, 1880.

REV. DR. SHELDON JACKSON, the well-known superintendent of Home Missions in the far West, having made a tour through Alaska last summer, has prepared a book, giving a comprehensive description of the country, its native inhabitants, their customs, superstitions and rites, with an account of the various missions which had been established among them while under Russian rule, as well as those which have recently been started by various Christian denominations of the United States. It is in the press of Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, and will shortly be issued in a handsome 12mo volume of some 300 pages at \$1.50, and is fully illustrated with nearly 100 engravings drawn on the spot. The book comes very opportunely at this time when Congress is considering the petition of the inhabitants of that remote section, asking representation at Washington and the establishment of local government, as well as an appropriation for educational purposes, and the account of the trials and vicissitudes of the missionaries in their efforts to Christianize the natives will be read with interest by all engaged in any way in missionary work.

This book seems well calculated to supply the existing lack of popular information concerning this part of the American republic. The country, its extent, natural phenomena, resources, population, etc., are thoroughly discussed. The social and religious status of the people is minutely and graphically detailed and the present condition of missionary enterprises described. Old traditions and heathenish customs are presented and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is demonstrated, as its influence is traced in the modified and converted lives of these degraded savages. The illustrations are numerous and clear.

Central Advocate.

St. Louis, Wednesday, April 28, 1880.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.; St. Louis: Hugh R. Hildreth Printing Co. 12mo, cloth, 327. \$1.60.

There is a growing interest in this country in regard to Alaska, and this volume is the best popular contribution of information on the subject that we have seen. Dr. Jackson's experience as a Presbyterian missionary makes him a trustworthy witness. He describes the country, its people, and what is being done for their social and religious elevation. The field is not an inviting one, for the people are of a low order and degraded by all the vices common to a barbarous condition. He gives a very full account of missionary effort among them, and the case of this people is seen not to be hopeless. We have found it a very interesting volume, and well illustrated.

New York
Evening
Express.

Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., has written an interesting illustrated book on "Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast." Dr. Jackson is himself a missionary. He is specially interested in missions. He studied the country and its people with special reference to missionary operations, and he gives an excellent account of the work the missionaries are already doing in that country. His account of the region, however, leaves an impression of bleakness and barrenness on the reader's mind, which he is not likely to shake off. There are tracts of territory where in the summer the vegetation of the temperate zone grows, and crops can be raised. But these exceptional districts are not sufficiently numerous or extensive to give character to the region, which is as a whole bleak and uninviting. Alaska is much larger than is generally supposed. It has copper, iron, coal, and silver mines, but it is thinly settled, and its natives are unintelligent when not degraded. The volume is tastefully published by Dodd, Mead & Co., of this city.

Syracuse Courier.

ALASKA, and missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York, Dodd, Mead & Co. Syracuse, R. G. Wynkoop & Co.

Alaska is an English corruption of the native word "Al-ak-shā," meaning "a great country." Great in area, indeed, for it is as broad as all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of the Gulf States. From east to west in an air line it reaches 2,200 miles. Its coast line, according to the United States Coast Survey, taking in islands and all, is 2,500 miles—more than that of both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States. Dr. Jackson, who spent some time in Alaska, is a firm believer in Alaska's material resources, which he describes at length. Of the Indian tribes dwelling there he draws vivid pictures. The extent of their degradation is surprising. The book as a whole is the most valuable contribution we have yet had to the history of the acquisition in which Secretary Seward took so much pride.

Philadelphia Weekly Item

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Profusely illustrated. New York: Dodd & Mead.

It is nearly thirteen years since Alaska became the property of the United States by the payment of \$7,200,000. There are few who do not remember the question asked Mr. Seward, "What do you consider the most important act of your official life?" and his prompt and emphatic reply, "The purchase of Alaska." There is no doubt regarding the assertion that Alaska is a wonderful country, but, we can agree with Dr. Jackson that it is a country of the future. It is not generally known that the word "Alaska" is a corruption of the native expression, "Al-ak-shak," which means "a great country or continent." Alaska covers over 580,107 square miles—as large an area as that of all of the United States east of the Mississippi, and north of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. Its extreme breadth, from East to West, is over two thousand miles, while according to Professor Guyot, (a geographical authority,) the Island of Attu, in Alaska, is as far west of San Francisco as the coast of Maine is east of that city, thus making San Francisco the middle city between the East and West of the United

States. In regard to the agricultural qualities of Alaska, Dr. Jackson quotes from a letter of Rev. John G. Brady, Presbyterian missionary at Sitka:

The Kake Indians furnished the Russians with potatoes. Some of the natives at Wrangell are clearing off garden patches this year. Much can be done in this direction, for Alaska will furnish vegetables for a teeming population. There are several thousand acres in the neighborhood of this place, upon which the finest vegetables may be raised with certainty. The soil, for the most part, is a vegetable mould mixed with sand. Mr. Smiegh, of this place, has had a garden for seven years. He says he has grown cabbages weighing twenty-seven pounds. He has tried peas, carrots, leeks, parsnips, turnips, lettuce, radishes, onions, potatoes, celery, parsley, horseradish, and rhubarb. Cucumbers and beans do well, while the cauliflower and the celery surpass any he had raised elsewhere. Wild black currants abound in the woods; tame currants do well, and are sure; gooseberries do well, and have a delicate flavor. The cabbage grows wild; also the strawberry. Mr. Burns, who has gardened for three years, agrees with Mr. Smiegh.

Dr. Jackson adds that during the Summer of 1879 he cut, at Fort Wrangell, wild timothy that would average five feet in height, and blue-grass that would average six feet. As corroboration, he cites the statement of Prof. Muir, State Geologist of California, who asserts that he never met anywhere, outside of the tropics, such rank vegetation as that which exists in this district of Alaska.

In the Alaskan range are the highest peaks in the United States—Mount St. Elias, 19,500 feet; Mount Cook, 16,000 feet; Mount Crillon, 15,900, Mount Fairweather, 15,500, and others. The following Indian traditions concerning the extinct volcanoes of Mount Edgecumbe, are edifying:

Mount Edgecumbe is a Mount Olympus for the natives. They say that the first Indian pair lived peaceably for a long time, and were blessed with children. But one day a family jar occurred. The husband and wife grew very angry at each other. For this the man was changed into a wolf and the woman into a raven. The metamorphosed woman flew down into the open crater of Mount Edgecumbe, lit on a stump, and is now holding the earth on her wings. Whenever there is thunder and lightning around the summit, it is only the wolf giving vent to his rage while he is trying to pull her off the stump. It would be a great calamity if she were to lose her grip, for then the earth would be upset and all who live on it would perish. So whenever it thunders, the Indians take stones and pound on the floors of their houses to encourage the raven to hold to the stump. Another myth is that a being who is half dog and half Indian lives on the top. He comes down once a year near the harbor to catch halibut. He covers himself with an eagle's skin. But upon his attempts to fly to the crest he failed. In his effort, he scratched the grooves and deep gullies in the mountain side. After repeated attempts,

he got so that he could fly, and now he feeds on whales, which he carries to his home in the crater.

Dr. Jackson tells us that the chief value of Alaska to Russia was its wonderful fur supplies. When the Territory was sold to the United States, the most prominent attraction was the seal-fur fisheries on the Pribyloff group of islands in Bering's Sea. To protect these valuable interests, the Government leased the islands for twenty years to an incorporated company known as "The Alaska Commercial Company." They pay the Government an annual rental of \$55,000 for the islands, and a royalty of \$262,500 a year on the 100,000 seal-skins allowed by law to be taken.

The village of Fort Wrangell (which has about one hundred houses) has become—in consequence of the extensive gold mines at Cassair—the chief business centre of Alaska. The permanent population is about one hundred whites and Russians, and five hundred Indians. There are seven or eight tribes who speak a common language called Thlinket. Like all the tribes, they have graded chiefs, who on all public occasions are seated according to rank. The Indians are subdivided into various families, each of whom have their family badge. We extract:—

These badges, or *totems*, among the Thlinkets, are the raven (*yehl*), the wolf (*kahaukh*), the whale (*koostan-ine*), and the eagle (*chethl*). These emblems are marked on the houses, canoes, household utensils, ornaments, and even clothing of the people. These crests or badges extend through the different tribes, and their members have a closer relation to one another than the tribal connection. For instance, members of the same tribe may marry, but not members of the same badge. Thus, a wolf cannot marry into the wolf family, but may into that of the whale.

In front of their leading houses, and at their burial places, are sometimes immense timbers covered with carvings. These are the genealogical records of the family. The child usually takes the totem of the mother. For instance, at the bottom of a post may be the carving of a whale, over that of a raven, a wolf, or an eagle, signifying that the great-grandfather of the present occupant of the house on his mother's side, belonged to the whale family the grandfather to the raven family, the father to the wolf family, and he himself to the eagle family. These standards are from two to five feet in diameter, often over 60 feet in height, and cost from \$1000 to \$2000, including the gifts and entertainments that attend their dedication.

Dr. Jackson, (who, from his influence over the Indians, was named "Koostan-ine," or "Great Whale," the highest compliment that could be conferred, on account of the prominence and influence of the whale family,) thus describes the Indian process of healing the sick, which was enacted at his request, at an entertainment given to the Indians:

The sick man lay upon the floor in a blanket. Soon an Indian came toward him, bearing a box containing the paraphernalia of the sorcerer. The attendant was followed

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order, with long, disheveled hair, rattles in his hand, and his face covered by a hideous mask. Young men beat gongs and kept time with sticks on the floor, while the friends chanted a monotonous song. The shaman shook his rattles over the sick man and threw himself into every kind of hideous attitude, with horrible contortions of features. He rushed wildly around the fire, striking savagely at the attendants with a dagger, flew at the sick man, ran out his tongue at him, hissed, and sometimes fell on the floor as if in a swoon. An attendant from time to time changed his mask and head-dress. Each mask represents a different spirit. And if one spirit has not sufficient power he tries another. Worked up to perfect frenzy, he finally declares that the sick man is bewitched, and immediately commences to trace the witch. Hand over hand, as if following a cord in a labyrinth, or as a dog tracks his prey, he followed the imaginary line here and there until it ended at some person, who is accused of being the witch, and is often taken and tortured to death in order that the sick person, relieved of the baleful influence, may get well.

At the conclusion of the entertainment, an Indian rose and said. "Dear Brothers, this is how we used to do before the white men came. Now you see with your own eyes how blind we were. God don't like these things, and we put them away." In regard to the degradation of Indian women throughout Alaska, regarding which so much has been stated recently, Dr. Jackson is compelled to state that "as in all barbarous lands the heaviest burdens and the greatest degradations fall upon the women, so in sections of Alaska. From early childhood they are accustomed to every kind of drudgery and oppression. Female infanticide is common, while many Indian mothers, to save their daughters from their own wretched lives, take them into the woods, stuff grass into their mouths, and leave them to die. Spared in infancy, the lesson of inferiority is early burned into the lives of the girls. While mere babes they are sometimes given away or betrothed to their future husbands. And when they arrive at the age of twelve or fourteen years, they are often offered for sale. For a few blankets, a mother will sell her own daughter, for base purposes for a week, a month, or for life."

Want of space prevents us from giving further extracts from Dr. Jackson's book, which is remarkably interesting from beginning to conclusion, and will certainly be a very large sale in all sections of the United States, while it cannot fail to excite a great deal of attention abroad.

The Baptist Weekly.

NEW YORK, MAY 27, 1880.

Alaska. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.)

At a public dinner given to Mr. Seward upon his retiring to private life, he was asked, "Mr. Seward, what do you consider the most important act of your official life?" he unhesitatingly replied, "The purchase of Alaska;" then, after a moment's pause, he added, "But it may take two generations before the purchase is appreciated." It was his crowning glory to have added a new empire to his country's domain. Alaska is an English corruption of the native word Al-ak-shak, which means a "great country or continent" and it is an area equal to the original thirteen States of the Union with the great Northwest Territory added. The coast of Alaska, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. One of its rivers is navigable for 1,500 miles. In almost every respect it is a "great land." The immense quantity of furs it supplies, the variety and number of its fishes, the largeness of the vegetables in the farming districts, the height of its mountains, the number of its volcanoes, its glaciers and boiling spring, and the richness of its mineral resources. But in this book full of most interesting descriptions of this wonderful country, so near us and yet so little known, Mr. Jackson gives a sad and startling picture of the inhabitants, who are very generally sunk in immorality, darkest superstition, and degradation.

The women are treated as slaves and with cruelty, and their old people deliberately killed to get them out of the way. Widows are compelled to remain near the funeral pile of their husbands, till the hair is singed from their heads and their hands burned by placing them upon the bosom of their dead husbands while the bodies are burning.

Mr. Jackson's history of the efforts of missionaries among these benighted people, contains facts of great value as showing the means used and results gained, since the Empress Catharine of Russia, in 1793, sent out eleven monks to Christianize her subjects in the American colonies, up to the present time. The missions of the Greek church and Lutheran were maintained with more or less success, schools established, etc., but not till within the last fifteen years have other denominations realized the need of consecrating a portion of their labor and money in evangelizing the Alaskans. The account of the establishment of these later mission stations, and of the efforts put forth by the earnest workers is full of interest. The volume is fully illustrated and has no dull pages in it.

Chicago
Evening Herald

Sat. Ev.
From CHICAGO TRIBUNE. Herald

NEW BOOKS.

ALASKA, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Price \$1.50. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. Sold by Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago.

Secretary Seward never gave a stronger bit of evidence that he was a cool and clear headed man than when he said that although Alaska is a very great and rich country, it would probably take the public two or three generations to find it out. The great majority of the general public, even now, when half the period of one generation has passed since the purchase, are still inclined to suspect the veteran statesman of "temporary aberration of mind" when he said that he rested his strongest hope of a lasting fame on his having been chiefly instrumental in achieving that purchase. There is very great darkness in most men's minds about the extent of the country, and about its value and products, and perhaps even more as to its nature, and the character and peculiarities of its climate. In all the infinite bosh and platitude which fills the newspapers of the day, scarcely anything is said of this huge, outlying empire that Mr. Seward secured to our domain, and even in what was said when the purchase was being negotiated, there was little of actual and valuable information which reached the general ear. The following extract therefore, will be, in the fullest sense, "news," without doubt, to a large proportion of our readers. Mr. Jackson, who has been on the ground and knows what he is talking about, says:—

"And it is indeed a great country, covering over 580,107 square miles, an area equal to the original thirteen States of the Union, with the great "North West Territory" added; or, in other words, Alaska is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi River, and north of Alabama, Georgia and North

Carolina. Its extreme breadth from east to west is two thousand two hundred miles in an air line. According to Professor Guyot, a recognized authority on all geographical matters, the Island of Attu, in Alaska, is as far west of San Francisco as the Coast of Maine is east of that city; or, in other words, San Francisco is the great middle city between the extreme east and west of the United States. The extreme breadth of Alaska from north to south is one thousand four hundred miles. The shore line, up and down the bays and around the islands, according to the United States Coast Survey, measures twenty-five thousand miles, or two and one-half times more than the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of the remaining portion of the United States."

So much for its extent. Mr. Jackson says that for forty-five years, with a few inconsiderable gaps in time, quite full meteorological, or, at least, thermometrical and hydrometrical, records have been kept at Sitka, and it can hardly fail to surprise most people in this part of the world to be told that the mean winter temperature of that place during that time, has been the same as that of Kentucky and Western Virginia. Of its resources some idea may be gained from the following extracts:—

"Dr. Kellogg, botanist of the United States Exploring Expedition, writes: 'Unalaska abounds in grasses, with a climate better adapted for haying than the Coast of Oregon.

The cattle were remarkably fat. Milk is abundant, William H. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution, predicts that the Aleutian district will yet furnish California with its best butter and cheese. * * The Sitkan district is mountainous in the extreme, and the larger portion covered with dense forests. The great wealth of this district is in its lumber, fish and minerals. * * Rev. John G. Brady, Presbyterian missionary at Sitka, writes: 'The Kake Indians furnished the Russians with potatoes. Some of the natives at Wrangell are clearing off garden patches this year. Much can be done in this direction, for Alaska will furnish vegetables for a teeming population. There are several thousand acres in the neighborhood of this place upon which the finest vegetables may be raised with certainty. The soil, for the most part, is a vegetable mould mixed with sand. Mr. Smiegh, of this place, has had a garden for the last seven years. He says that he has grown cabbages weighing twenty-seven pounds. He has tried peas, carrots, leeks, parsnips, turnips, lettuce, radishes, onions, potatoes, celery, parsley, horse radish and rhubarb. He has tried cucumbers and beans, but they did not do well. Cauliflower and celery surpass any that he has raised in other places. The wild black currants abound in the woods. The tame currants do well and are sure. Gooseberries do well and have a delicate flavor. The cabbage grows wild, and six or eight inches in diameter. * * During

the summer of 1879, I cut at Fort Wrangell, wild timothy that would average five feet in height, and blue-grass that would average six feet,—the longest stem measured seven feet three inches. Prof. Muir, State Geologist of California, testifies that he never met anywhere, outside of the tropics, such rank vegetation as in this district."

Before such blue-grass as that the famous region where all the "noble-hearted Kentuckians" claim to have been born must "hide its diminished head." Again, Mr. Jackson says:—

"The chief value of Alaska to Russia, was its wonderful fur supplies. And when the Territory was sold to the United States, the most prominent attraction was the seal-fur fisheries on the Pribyloff group of islands in Bering's Sea. To protect these valuable interests the Government leased these islands for twenty years to an incorporated company known as the 'Alaska Commercial Company.' They pay the Government an annual rental of \$55,000 for the islands, and a royalty of \$262,500 a year on the 100,000 seal skins allowed by law to be taken. Thus these two little islands—St. Paul, 13 miles long and 6 wide, and St. George, 10 miles long and 6 wide—furnish nearly all the seal-skins used in the markets of the world, and have paid a revenue into the United States Treasury, from 1871 to 1880 of over two and one-half million dollars; and yet it is thought by some that Alaska was a worthless purchase."

It is gratifying to find so much and so varied material information about a region so little known, and less appreciated, in a book which seems to us likely to attract quite wide attention on other accounts. The author has been for years a layman of the Presbyterian Church, engaged during a large portion of that time in founding new churches in the newly settled regions of our Western States and Territories. During all this period he has been connected with the missionary department of the Presbyterian Church, has urged some of the claims of the Alaskan region upon various Congressional Committees, and has been, more largely than any other individual, instrumental in securing to the natives of that country, such educational and religious facilities and advantages as they have. He is, therefore, doubly competent to impart correct information about both the country and the people. Competent, because he has had the opportunity to learn, and because he has felt the kind

and degree of interest which would lead him surely to take full advantage of his opportunity to learn. The volume seems likely to attract considerable attention from the fact that it conveys, through the medium of letters written by various ladies and gentlemen engaged in educational and missionary labors, very full information of what has been and is being done in those directions, and is fruitful of suggestion as to profitable opportunities for more extended work. The author gives a brief, and, on the whole, rather unsatisfactory sketch of what was done, toward Christianizing the natives, by the Greek Church, during the many years of Russian occupation, but does not seem to attach any sort of importance to it. Possibly he may be right in this, but we suspect that he has, on that point, allowed his Protestant zeal to a little out-run his usual good sense and judgment. We suspect so, because it crops out in several places in the volume, both in what the author himself says, and in what is said by others, that, despite the stolidity and savagery of the natives, the majority of them are found to be much more tractable—more teachable—more ready to accept the doctrines and practices of Christianity than have been the Indians of any other portion of the United States Territory. It may be that this grows out of Constitutional differences in the different races, but it would seem that a century or more of more or less direct contact with one of the great branches of the Christian Church has had something to do with it. In any event the book seems to us to be likely to prove of great interest to an uncommonly varied circle of readers. It is not written with any marked literary excellence, unless it be those of evident directness of purpose and a modest simplicity of manner. It bears marks of more or less haste in its preparation, in looseness of construction and want of grace and finish in its sentences. But these are minor faults and will be readily pardoned to its evident earnestness of purpose and generous humanity of spirit, and to the really valuable information it embodies. The latter half is largely made up of the letters alluded to, and some

readers will probably find so much of them rather tedious, and be inclined to wish the author had told the story in his own words, as the other parts of the book prove him to be abundantly able to have done acceptably. It is very neatly and tastefully printed and bound.

Michigan Christian Advocate.

Saturday, April 24, 1880.

Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. have given to the American public a very interesting volume upon "Alaska and its Missions." Few, even of the more intelligent, have any conception of the extent, resources and interest of this vast territory. Secretary Seward's purchase has been made the butt of many jokes, but it will prove his superior sagacity. Alaska extends to the 172d parallel of west longitude, or west as far from San Francisco as the extreme eastern coast of the north-east. It has a coast line more than equal to the circumference of the globe, and is rich in furs, fish, and minerals, and especially in lumber. Its mountains rise to the height of twenty thousand feet, with numerous volcanoes and glaciers, and its coast is dotted with islands, of which more than a thousand have been noted. It has a large region as mild as England, and which compares favorably with Norway and Sweden for agricultural purposes. It has a native population of about 50,000 Indians and Esquimaux, who are more degraded than can be imagined. This volume gives considerable space to the natural resources and scenery, and details of the history of missionary operations, both of the Greek and the American Churches. It is well illustrated. 12mo; price \$1.50. Detroit, John Willyoung, successor to Arnold & Willyoung.

Philadelphia Evening News

"Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast," by Sheldon Jackson, D. D., is also published by Dodd, Mead & Co. It bears little resemblance to Mr. Coan's less pretentious production. One details the particulars of a nearly hopeless missionary visit to a country and race of savages, nearly half a century ago; the other treats of missions in Alaska, in the North Pacific Ocean, the latest annexed territory of the United States, obtained from Russia in 1867, not by the sword, but by the mercantile process of regular contract and heavy cash payment. Dr. Jackson makes his readers acquainted with what has been done and is doing in Alaska and the adjacent coast by American, British and Russian missionaries. Churches have been built, congregations of converted heathens organized and schools established. It may be alleged, perhaps, that Dr. Jackson has devoted too much space to the reproduction of letters in his narrative, instead of giving his readers their substance; but he deserves high commendation for his own interesting, not to say valuable, description of the people (with their ways, manners, superstitions, capacity,) and of the productions and peculiar features of the country, which covers over 580,000 square miles, the breadth of which from east to west is 2,200 miles in an air line, and from north to south 1,400 miles. So much coast is there, up and down the bays and around the islands, that, if extended in a straight line, it would belt the globe. It contains rivers whose single lengths roll through twice two thousand miles of shore line, the mountains in many places rising from the water's edge from 1,000 to 8,000 feet. One of the rivers in Alaska, Dr. Jackson informs us, is "not only one of the largest of the United States, but also of the world." This is the Yukon, 70 miles wide across its five mouths, navigable for 1,510 miles, and 2,000 miles long.

The population, which is comparatively small, is chiefly Indian, but they are not a savage race and appear not merely willing but anxious to attend the schools under Mrs. A. R. McFarland, evidently the right person in the right place. Dr. Jackson brings his narrative down to the close of last year. His book is suitably illustrated with portraits and numerous wood engravings, and there is a good-sized map of Alaska and the adjoining region, taking in the course of the Mackenzie river, which flows into the Polar sea.—On sale by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger.

BOSTON SUNDAY HERALD

"Alaska, and the Missions of the North Pacific Coast," by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., has just been issued by Dodd, Mead & Co. The general subjects of the book are indicated in the title, being a history or mission work in Alaska, and its progress and changes since this region became a part of the United States territory. The work is one of great interest.

New York 56 Conservative

WE know so little of the territory that the United States bought of Russia about thirteen years ago, that any addition to our knowledge of it is welcome. Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, of Denver, Colorado, the author of the volume before us, has twice visited Alaska—in 1877 and 1879—as a missionary agent of the Presbyterian Church. His book is principally devoted to narrating the efforts which have been made to Christianize the Alaska Indians. But in the first three chapters he has compiled from various sources, mostly official, much interesting matter about Alaska, its climate, natural features, resources and products, and the manners and customs of its inhabitants. Alaska, he tells us, is an English corruption of the native word "Al-ak-shak," which means "a great country or continent." And great, in extent at least, the country certainly is, for its extreme breadth from east to west is twenty-two hundred miles in an air line. From the mainland there stretches, it will be remembered, a line of islands, of which the most westerly, Attu, according to Professor Guyot, is as far west of San Francisco as the coast of Maine is east of that city. Southern Alaska is much warmer than is generally supposed, for its winter climate, for forty-five years past, has been the winter climate of Kentucky and West Virginia.

The book is made in good form, with more than eighty illustrations, including a steel portrait of Dr. Jackson as a frontispiece, and a map of Alaska.

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blishers.

INDEPENDENT.

there.—A more interesting and important work is the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson's *Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast*, from the same publishers as the preceding. Dr. Jackson describes the geography, productions, races, religious opinions, and customs of the country, and gives the result of missionary labors among the people up to this time. Their ethnography and religion have not yet been well worked up. They seem to be docile and intelligent. (The work is a valuable one.)

Portland Press.

Alaska, By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.; Portland; Hoyt, Fogg & Donham) gives an account of the missionary labors in the territory of Alaska. It abounds in illustrations, showing weapons, utensils, etc., of the Indian tribes: and gives an interesting description of their strange customs and the progress they have made toward enlightened civilization.

NEW HAVEN

SUNDAY REGISTER

So little is known about the immense territory comprised in the new purchase, Alaska, that the story told by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson of his missionary labors among the inhabitants of that unknown land will be read with interest. His account of "Alaska, and Missions of the North Pacific Coast," published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, throws a vast deal of light upon the climate, soil, geography and strange tribes of Alaska. While the narrative is largely made up of details of missionary work and is very disappointing in completeness of information enough facts are given to invest Alaska and its people with a new and strange interest. Few recognize the immense extent of the territory of Alaska, but when it is recalled that it contains 580,107 square miles, an area equal to the original thirteen states with the "Northwest Territory" added, some idea of its size may be obtained. Its extreme breadth from east to west is *two thousand two hundred miles* in an air line, while its extreme length from north to south is fourteen hundred miles. Its coast line up and down the bays and around the islands measures twenty-five thousand miles, or two and one-half times more than the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of the remaining portion of the United States. It contains sixty-one volcanoes, a peak, Mount St. Elias, 19,500 feet high, being the highest in the United States, and a vast number of large islands. Among rivers the Yukon, seventy miles wide at its mouth, two thousand miles long and navigable for fifteen hundred miles, is the chief. The seal fisheries on the two little islands—St. George, ten miles long and six wide, and St. Paul, thirteen miles long and six wide—bring the government a yearly income of \$317,500. Between 1871 and 1880 these two little islands paid a revenue to the United States of more than \$2,500,000. But while

these two islands furnish the principal revenue the other fishing stations are not to be despised, a million dollars worth of furs of other animals being gathered annually. Of fish the supply is infinite. Timber is abundant, and coal and precious ores are believed to exist in large quantities. Con-

cerning the inhabitants Mr. Jackson furnishes some curious as well as startling information. The inhabitants are divided into four general classes, the Koloshians, 15,000 in number, occupying the islands and southern portion of the county; the Kenaians, 25,000 in number, occupying the land north of Copper river and west of the Rocky Mountains; the Aleuts, 10,000 in number, inhabiting the Aleutian islands, and the Eskimos, numbering 20,000, inhabiting the coasts of Bering's Sea and of the Arctic ocean. Thus the total population is about 60,000. These Indians, because they are Indians, are in the main friendly and tractable, though the Koloshians are less so than the others. Mr. Jackson gives a bad account of these Koloshians. They do not hesitate to capture trading vessels and murder the crews and they have been known to make warlike excursions as far South as Puget sound, where upon one occasion they murdered a collector of customs at Port Townsend. Among the Koloshians the married women are slaves while the unmarried girls are sent frequently by their parents to the mines to live lives of prostitution, the earnings of their shame being dutifully sent home to support the parents. Drunkenness is almost universal, in one village where Mr. Jackson visited the entire population of 400 souls being all drunk at the same time. Cannibalism is not unusual among this tribe. Mr. William Duncan, a fellow missionary, relates that on one occasion he saw an old chief belonging to the sub-tribe of Tsimpsians drag a poor female slave to the beach, murder her in cold blood and throw her body into the water. She was killed in order that she might precede the coming of a sick daughter of the chief into the unseen world, and be on hand to welcome her mistress when she arrived. After the body was thrown into the water a vast number of naked savages plunged in after it, drew it out and began to tear it to pieces with their teeth. After it had been sufficiently torn they proceeded to eat the raw flesh. It is but fair to these Indians to remark that the individuals who indulged in this horrible performance claimed to be "Medicine Men" in full practice. The missionaries, it is pleasant to note, have made decided progress in christianizing the inhabitants of Alaska, and

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there is reason to hope that the time is not far distant when the whole Alaskan population will become tolerably civilized. The resources of the country are enormous; the climate in the southern portion is mild and temperate, so that ice rarely forms over an inch in thickness in the coldest winter, and the soil is fertile in the extreme. There is room for a large white population in the southern part, and there is reasonable assurance of health and prosperity to the early settlers. Published by Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. For sale by Judd.

North American

Alaska. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. So little is known about Alaska that any contribution to the common stock of information is welcome. A great part of Dr. Jackson's book consists of extracts from previous publications, and except for the convenience of its arrangement, this of course has comparatively little value. But much is altogether new. Dr. Jackson writes from personal observation, and though some of his theology might have been dispensed with, he seldom fails to be readable. The value and interest of the book are much increased by its many illustrations, taken upon the spot, and which convey a vivid idea of our mysterious possession.

The Churchman.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully illustrated. [New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.] 12mo, cloth, pp. 327.

The reader will find in these pages a variety of information. The author gives a description of Alaska, its physical geography, the character and customs of its inhabitants, its climate, resources, and superstitions. He traces the history of the missionary work done there—in the way of establishing churches and schools—by the Presbyterians of the United States, and also adds a sketch of what has been accomplished by the Church Missionary Society of England and by the Methodists in British Columbia, on the borders of Alaska. The book shows what may be called a business rather than a literary spirit. The author tells what he has to say in a straightforward way, without much regard for method. Those who desire information concerning that comparatively unknown portion of our national domain will find plenty of it in these pages.

CHRISTIAN LEADER

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

As a sketch of the recently acquired country—as a detailed account of the manners and customs of the natives, and as a summary of missionary movements, Dr. Jackson's book is replete with interest. The style is not very ambitious, but the matter is attractive.

Rhode Island Press.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1880.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. pp. 327.

Dr. Jackson has given the public, in this volume, a wealth of information concerning Alaska, its people, their manners and customs, and their intellectual and moral status. Some idea of the extent of our purchase from Russia in 1867, may be obtained by the statement that it contains 580,107 square miles, or an area equal to that of the original thirteen States with the great "Northwest Territory" added. Its extreme breadth from east to west is 2200 miles in an air line. Everything of interest relating to the territory, physical, governmental, social and moral, is given and the publishers have illustrated the text with maps and cuts profusely.

The author is intensely interested in the religious culture of that people, and gives full particulars of the missions established and their success. The Indians receive the gospel with gladness and enter into the new life readily. Alaska offers a field for the Christian church which should be promptly and effectually cultivated. We commend the book heartily. Messrs. Tibbitts & Randall have it.

Detroit Evening News

Another somewhat similar work, though more comprehensive in its scope, is a book entitled *Alaska*, written by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, being an account of the missions on the north Pacific coast. It describes the country and its resources; the natives and their customs, and gives a detailed account of the organization and success of mission work among them as well as in British Columbia. This work is also published by Dodd & Mead, and is for sale by E. B. Smith & Co.

The Nation.

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.)—*Adventures in Patagonia.* A Missionary's Exploring Trip. By Rev. Titus Coan. (Same publishers.)—Both of these books are the result of missionary sojourn and investigation in the countries named. In the first Dr. Jackson gives a description of Alaska in its geographical and ethnological aspects, the habits and customs of the people, the need of missions, what has been done in the way of civilization by the Greek Church during the last century, and what has been already accomplished by the home missions. The Treasury has up to the present time, it may not be generally known, received the amount of one-third of the purchase-money (\$7,000,000) from the rental of the seal-fisheries leased to the Alaska Commercial Company for a term of twenty years, half of which has now expired. The yield of furs from the land animals equals \$1,000,000 annually. The fisheries are extremely valuable, and salmon "canneries" have already been established. Only these industries have been yet developed, but there are indications of great and varied mineral wealth; the lumber districts are unequalled the world over; and, with a large region enjoying the climate of Virginia, Alaska promises to be a great grazing country. No official census has been taken; the Russian estimate at the time of purchase placed the population at 66,000; General Halleck's report to the Secretary of War gave 60,000; while Mr. Wm. H. Dall in 'North American Ethnology' estimates the native population at 25,704, which number is raised to 27,404 by the addition of Russians, half-breeds, and citizens. The natives are ferocious for the most part, but yield readily to civilizing influences. They are willing to work and evince a desire to accumulate wealth. Polygamy is common, and the women are extremely degraded, especially where they come into contact with the white miners. The work of the Greek Church, which had been continued for nearly a century, was abandoned at the time of the transfer, but it was ten years before American missionaries entered the field. They are now, however, doing well, the natives welcoming their teaching and showing a great readiness to help in the support of the church and schools. Dr. Jackson's straightforward account will be found interesting and profitable, and should fulfil his aim of awakening a greater interest on the part of the churches in Alaska mission-work.

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS:

ALASKA, By SHELDON JACKSON. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Indianapolis: Bowen, Stewart & Co.

This handsome volume has a fine map and profuse illustrations of the country which is its theme. It is a most graphic and interesting account of the land and its people. It is far ahead of books of its kind in its treatment and style, and will well repay reading. It is valuable as a contribution to history, while it has all the fascination of a book of travels.

The Palladium.

Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast, illustrated, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. The author has given the public in this volume a great deal of information concerning Alaska. The reason for making a portrait of the author the frontispiece is not so apparent. Dr. Jackson has written particularly of missionary work in Alaska, but he has plainly sought to bring into his book all that can be known of the country. He has consulted scientific treatises while he has given us the results of his own observations. He has made an interesting and valuable book. [Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by Judd the bookseller. Price \$1.50.]

Alaska and Missions on the North American Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

Having traveled through Alaska, and witnessed the degradation and horrid ceremonies of the natives, the author of this book is able to give a perfectly clear and truthful report of life in Alaska. The book is an exceedingly interesting one, giving descriptions of the land and country, the habits and customs of the natives. The great good done by the missionaries who have been sent there; the importance of the work; and the need of assistance to carry on the work so well begun; are set forth. It seems impossible that any one could read this book without interest.

The other volume to which we refer is Rev. Dr. Jackson's account of the establishment of the Presbyterian mission in Alaska.† Alaska is noted as being a country more frequently reported upon than any of which we have account. Dr. Jackson draws freely from the various sources, official and unofficial, which are now accessible to him who would know aught of Alaska, its people, resources and history. The author, who takes a rosy and Sewardian view of our often-described purchase, occupies the first half of his book with extracts from the reports. The rest of the work is taken up with a series of letters from the missionaries and their helpers, dove-tailed together by a running commentary from the pen of the author and editor. The result is a tolerably interesting book, whose chief value consists in its skillful condensation of information previously collected by other explorers. The work is copiously illustrated by some particularly bad wood-cuts.

National Baptist Philadelphia

Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By REV. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D. Fully Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 328. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

Dr. Jackson presents an interesting picture of life among the Alaskan Indians. He describes, very carefully and very fully, the manners, costumes, superstitions, and history, and graphically pictures their country. Alaska seems to be a sort of wonder-land. We doubt not, but very few persons have the slightest idea that we have within our borders a land so rich in resources, and so promising to colonists. Dr. Jackson has written, however, more for the purpose of promoting Christian mission work among the 60,000 Alaskans, than to encourage immigration thither. He sets forth the terrible degradation of these Northern Indians, presenting a picture of misery and wretchedness, hardly equaled in any part of the world. Captain Ebenezer Morgan said, in confirmation of this dark picture: "I have read all that my brother Sheldon Jackson has published concerning Alaska; but he does not say enough; he has not told one-half of the degradation of the Northern Indians. These pictures our brother has given us are not strong enough. You would blush that the human family could be brought so low." Yet, as with the savage, South Sea Islanders, the gospel has already done much to lessen the cannibalism and cruel savagery of the Alaskans. The gospel is equally adapted to the savage and the civilized, and all such works as this add another link to the chain of evidences of the truth of Christianity. As a curious picture of a quaint people, as a soul-stirring portrait of the sad condition of a race of our fellow-men, and as a lively description of Christian mission work, Dr. Jackson's work is sure to amuse, interest, and instruct. It will find a suitable place in the Sunday-school library.

Harpers Monthly

DR. SHELTON JACKSON'S fresh and interesting book on *Alaska*²⁷ should put an end to the ridicule that has been so persistently directed against the late Secretary Seward because of his acquisition of that remote Territory, and its incorporation into the Union. Instead of being an unproductive and useless ice-bound desert, Dr. Jackson shows from his own care-

ful observations, supplemented by the researches of Mr. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Baker, of the Coast Survey, Professors Powell, Nourse, and others, that the southern portion of the immense tract, or nearly a moiety of the 600,000 square miles comprised in Alaska, is fertile and salubrious, and that its climate is as temperate as and more equable than that of the Middle States. The vegetable productions of the Northern and Middle States grow on its soil as luxuriantly as anywhere in the United States, and its resources of everything needful for existence and commerce—of timber, coal, copper, iron, gold, plumbago, and other minerals—are some of them illimitable, and others sufficiently abundant to give full employment to enterprise, and to insure a prosperous future to the country. In addition to the resources contained in or dependent upon its soil, the seas that surround Alaska, the vast rivers that penetrate it—one of these rivers, the Yukon, is over two thousand miles long, and seventy miles wide at its mouth—and the boundless forests that cover its mountains, abound in seal, fish, and fur-bearing animals, which already give profitable employment to large numbers, and make an important contribution to the commerce and industry of the nation. Alaska is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Its extremest island, Attu, in the Aleutian Archipelago, is as far west of San Francisco as the coast of Maine is east of that city. Its extreme breadth from east to west is 2200 miles, and from north to south 1400 miles; and its shore-line up and down the bays and around the islands is 25,000 miles, so that its coast, if extended in a straight line, would belt the globe. It is the great island region of the United States; its islands, over one thousand in number, rise abruptly out of the ocean to a height of from one thousand to eight thousand feet, the channels between them being in some places less than a quarter of a mile wide, and yet too deep to afford anchorage. This great archipelago forms one of the most remarkable stretches of inland ocean navigation in the world; its island shores are bold, and indented with innumerable bays and harbors; they have an abun-

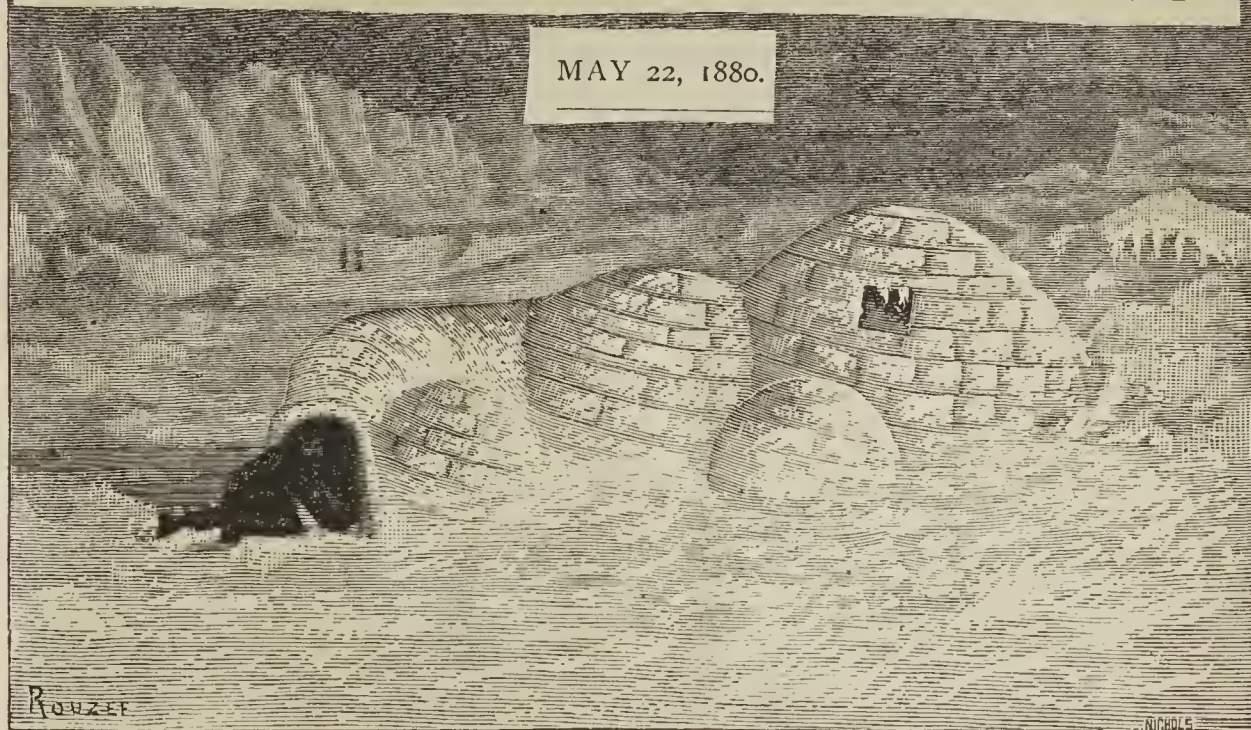
dance of fuel and water, and they afford perfect shelter from the swells of the ocean. The voyager may enjoy among them an ocean sail of a thousand miles without encountering peril or even seasickness. Moreover, Alaska is the great glacier region, some of its glaciers being vastly greater and grander than those of the Alps; and its hot and mineral springs are on an enormous scale, one of them being a huge boiling and steaming caldron eighteen miles in circumference. What with its wonderful natural curiosities, its peculiar invitations by land and water to pleasure-seeking or scientific travellers, its illimitable resources, and its strange native populations, Alaska of-

New England Homestead

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST; by Rev Dr Sheldon Jackson. New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.; Springfield, Whitney & Adams.

The large number of people who consider that the \$7,000,000 which the United States paid for Alaska was money thrown away, would be convinced of their error by reading this book. Probably no other part of the United States is so little thought of or known about as this. Yet Alaska comprises a territory as large as all the 13 states which originally comprised the Union, and its furthest point is as far west of San Francisco as Maine is east of the Golden Gate, so that San Francisco may fairly claim to be the central city of the Union. Alaska has the highest mountain in the United States (Mt St Elias, whose altitude is 19,500 feet—three times the height of Mt Washington;) 61 volcanoes and numerous boiling springs, including some of immense size; a river (Yukon) which is 70 miles wide at its mouth; and almost inexhaustible stores of furs, fish and lumber. Already the fur-traders have paid \$2,500,000 into the United States treasury, and we shall eventually get back every dollar that Alaska cost us. As for the fisheries, the good D. D. who writes this book tells of *seven thousand* salmon at one haul! Although Alaska 45 years showing that it was never colder there than 4 degrees below zero and never warmer than 87 above, while only very rarely were the extremes of zero and 80 exceeded. All vegetables except beans and cucumbers thrive there. These and many other interesting facts are to be found in the volume before us; but the larger number of its pages are devoted to a history of the mission work among the natives in that far-off land, a work which has been greatly blessed. The book has numerous illustrations.

MAY 22, 1880.



ESKIMO SNOW-HOUSE, ALASKA.

The Great North Land.

THE "Presbyterian Bishop of the North-West," as he is sometimes styled, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, has written a book,* which has just been issued from the house of Dodd, Mead, & Company, of this city, to which we are indebted for both the facts and the illustrations of the present article. In the ILLUSTRATED CHRISTIAN WEEKLY for April 13, and April 27, 1878, Dr. Jackson gave some account of that great territory, and of the beginnings of Christian work there. So far as possible we shall not retrace the ground which he so well covered in those articles. Let us simply remind our readers that Russian America was formally given over to the possession of the United States, October 18, 1867, upon the payment of \$7,200,000; that it is a great territory, covering more than 580,000 square miles, or an area equal to all of the United States east of the Mississippi and north of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina; that the island of Attu in Alaska is as far west of San Francisco as the coast of Maine is east of that city, making the Pacific metropolis the middle city between the extreme east and west of this country; and that in its seal-skins, its furs, its fisheries, and its lumber, the territory is worth all that was paid for it, and is destined to be a source of profit to the country.

Physical configuration naturally divides the territory into three districts—the Yukon, extending from the Alaskan range of mountains to the Arctic Ocean; the Aleutian, embracing

the Alaska Peninsula and islands west of the 155th degree of longitude; the Sitkan, including southeastern Alaska.

Concerning the Yukon district, but little is known. Much of it is a vast moorland, interrupted by prominent, isolated mountains, numerous lakes, bogs, and peat-beds. In places the herbage is luxuriant, and rare and beautiful plants abound. Summer sets in in May, following rapidly on the heels of winter. At Fort Yukon the thermometer often goes above 100° in summer, and from 50° to 70° below zero in winter! The commercial value of this section is in its furs.

The Aleutian district is largely mountainous and of volcanic formation. Between the mountains and the sea are natural prairies, with a rich soil, covered with perennial wild grasses. The climate is said to be better adapted for haying than the coast of Oregon. At present the principal resource of this part of the territory are the fisheries off the coast, which are wonderfully productive.

* Alaska and Michigan, by Sheldon Jackson, D.D.

The Sitkan district is mountainous in the extreme, and the larger portion of it covered with dense forests.

It is destined to be the great reserve lumber region of the United States. The country, moreover, is believed to be rich in minerals, waiting only time for the development of remarkable resources in this direction. The temperature at Sitka is equable, ranging from a mean of about 32° winter to 54° summer, and averaging 43° for the entire year.

The natural phenomena of this "great north land" are graphically described by Captain Butler, an English officer, who writes: "Nature has here graven her image in such colossal characters that man seems to move slowly amid an ocean frozen rigid by the lapse of time—frozen into those things we call mountains, rivers, prairies, and forests: rivers whose single lengths roll through twice two thousand miles of shore line; prairies over which a traveller can steer for weeks without



TOTEM POLES, FORT WRANGELL.

resting his gaze on aught save the dim verge of the ever-shifting horizon; mountains rent by rivers, ice-topped, glacier-seared, impassable; forests whose sombre pines darken a region half as large as Europe. In summer a land of sound, a land echoing with the voices of birds, the ripple of running water, the mournful music of the waving pine branch. In winter a land of silence, its great rivers glimmering in the moonlight, wrapped in their shrouds of ice; its still forests

rising weird and spectral against the aurora-lighted horizon; its nights so still that the moving streamers across the northern skies seem to carry to the ear a sense of sound."

The routes of travel to Alaska are not very numerous. A United States mail steamer makes monthly trips between Port Townsend, Washington Territory, and Fort Wrangell and Sitka. The country west of Sitka, including the Aleutian Islands and the great interior of the Territory, is reached from San Francisco.

The inhabitants of Alaska are grouped in four general divisions: the *Koloshians*, inhabiting the islands and coast from latitude 54° 40' to the mouth of the Atna or Copper River; the *Kenaians*, the Indians who occupy the coun-



ESKIMO WOMAN, ALASKA.

try north of Copper River and west of the Rocky Mountains, except the Aleuts and the Eskimos; the *Aleuts*, properly the natives of the Aleutian Islands; the *Eskimos*, inhabiting the coasts of Behring's Sea and of the Arctic Ocean, and the interior of the country north, and including the northern branches of the Yukon River.

The estimates of the number of the population vary greatly. The Russian officials at the time of the transfer claimed a population of 66,000; this is probably an overestimate. It is practically impossible as yet to secure a complete census. If we say 50,000 we are in all probability not very far from the real number of people in the Territory.

The Alaskan Eskimos do not essentially differ from the same race as they exist elsewhere. The illustration shows one of their snow-houses,

which is constructed in various apartments, and so arranged with winding passages as to exclude the cold. We fancy, however, that such a residence, though warm, is not remarkably cheerful.

Some of the Alaska Indians live in houses like the one represented in the engraving. These houses are generally built along the

beach, just above high-water mark. They are from 25 to 40 feet square, without a window, the only openings being a small door, three or four feet above the ground level, and a hole in the roof for the escape of the smoke. The door opens upon a broad platform, which extends around the four sides of the house. Some of the houses have a second platform inside the first. The square within all is planked, except the space reserved for the fire. The walls, and frequently the roofs, are made of cedar plank, from two to five feet wide, and two to three inches thick. These planks are made by splitting the trees, their faces being smoothed with a small adze.

Among some of the tribes the rank of the chief is indicated by the height of a pole, called a "totem pole," erected in front of the house. The greater the chief the higher his pole.

These posts are carved with the "totems," or family badges of the chief, and form a sort of genealogical record of his family. These family badges extend through different tribes, and their members have a closer relation to one another than the tribal connection. Members of the same tribe may marry, but not members of the same badge. These totem poles are from two to five feet in diameter, and are often more than sixty feet in height. They sometimes cost as much, including the gifts and entertainments that attend their dedication, as \$2,000. Visitors to the Centennial Exhibition will remember specimens of these poles.

The general condition of the natives of Alas-



ESKIMO HUNTER, ALASKA.



AN ALASKA HOUSE OF CEDAR PLANK.

ka may be described as one of extreme degradation. The women are despised and oppressed. Female infanticide is common among some of the tribes. Polygamy is common. Widows are sometimes burned to death on the funeral pyres of their husbands. Witchcraft is practised, and religion resolves itself into devil-worship. All the Alaska Indians are held in abject fear by the "shamans," the conjurers or medicine men.

The latter half of Dr. Jackson's book is occupied mainly with an account of the work of the mission which he was instrumental in founding among the benighted Alaskans. It was begun August 10, 1877, at Fort Wrangell. Mrs. A. R. McFarland, a missionary lady of experience, was put in charge, and carried on the work nobly. At the time she was the only

she was elected chairman. She was called upon to interfere in cases of witchcraft; and when the Vigilance Committee were about to hang a man for murder, she was sent for to act as his spiritual adviser. There are few instances of greater Christian heroism than hers. She is now at the head of the McFarland Industrial Home at Fort Wrangell, which aims to save the Indian girls from a horrible fate, and train them for future usefulness.

The Rev. S. H. Young is now laboring at Wrangell, and the Rev. J. G. Brady at Sitka. At the former place a church has been formed; at both stations there are other assistants besides those already named, and Dr. Jackson reports the work as prospering.

Christian white woman in Wrangell; for seven months she was the only Protestant missionary in Alaska, and it was five months longer before any one came to her assistance at Fort Wrangell. During that time all the perplexities, religious, physical, and moral, of the native population were brought to her for solution, and her arbitration was universally accepted. If any were sick, they came to her as a physician; if any died, she was called upon to take charge of the funeral. If husbands and wives became separated, she was the peacemaker to settle their difficulties. In questions of property she was judge, lawyer, and jury. When the Christian Indians called a constitutional convention,

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—Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., to whom the country is so much indebted for his admirable work on Alaska, is now on a visit to that territory, superintending the building of two mission chapels, besides attending to other duties. A recent gift of \$1,000 from a lady in Zanesville, Ohio, in aid of the one at Chleat, is mentioned as an important factor in the movement.

American Missionary Oct 1881

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

V.—GENERAL LITERATURE.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Fully illustrated. 12mo, pp. 327. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. 1880.

The most ubiquitous man, in the American Presbyterian ministry, is the Rev. author of this book. His home is Denver, Col., but we should judge that it is about the last place in which to look for him. Now we are grasping his hand in Centre Street, New York; presently he is exploring the wilds of Utah; then he is investigating the Aztecs, and climbing up their singular habitations; next he is scaling the Rocky Mountains, and hunting up the lost sheep in the wilderness of Idaho; and, having a few idle days on hand, he must needs bend his steps to the vast archipelago of Alaska. So, on the 10th of August, 1877, he finds himself at Fort Wrangel. Returning to the East he published, first in his own monthly sheet, the *Rocky Mountain Presbyterian* (for he is an editor withal), and then in the other religious papers of the denomination, glowing accounts of what he has seen and heard, as one has described it: "a paradise for the naturalist, a happy hunting-ground for the ethnologist, and a new and boundless field for the geologist," to say nothing of the agriculturist.

Once more, "armed with a little brief authority," as an agent of the U. S. Government, he finds his way with Secretary Kendall, "the Big Chief," in the summer of 1879, to the same Hesperides, threading the sinuosities of Puget Sound, and reaching, July 21st, the familiar post of Fort Wrangel, and then pushing his way north through the longest stretch of inland navigation on the sea-coast of any country in the world.

What he saw and heard, as a faithful editor he puts in print; and his fervent appeals wake up the dormant energies of the Church in behalf of this remotest of our American possessions—so far away that San Francisco is but the half-way house to its *ultima thule*. The winter finds him at home, and he gathers up his fugitive editorials, which, with a well-condensed introduction of statistics gathered from authentic sources, he publishes in a book, "with numerous illustrations and his own speaking portrait." Such is the book before us. We welcome it as "good news from a far country." It will help, we trust, to stir up the churches to a new and lively interest in our missions there, and to plant on those hyperborean shores the foundations of many generations.

E. F. H.

Washington, D. C. April 2/80

Rev. Seldon Jackson, D. D.

Dear Bro:

I have received
from the publishers, by your direction,
your book on Alaska, for which,
please accept my Thanks. I have not
yet had the time to read it. but

from a hasty look throu it, I am
satisfied that it is more than in-
teresting. The illustrations are in-
teresting & instructive, & greatly enhance
its value. It ought, & I have no doubt, will
have, a wide circulation.

Yours very truly.
Geo. Sanahan.

Crossforkville Indiana

April 6th 1885.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson.

Dear Sir,

It gives me pleasure to
state that we have just received for the
Library of Wabash College as a donation,
a copy of your very interesting and valuable
book on the "Indian Tribes of the United States".

its publication and wide circulation will be
of great service to the cause of education
and religion - that distant Territory.

Very respectfully,
Samuel S. Johnson
Librarian of Wesleyan
College.

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A. B. MEACHAM, Editor,

P. O. Address, Box 700.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY, 1880.

Dr. Jackson's New Book.

Brother Sheldon Jackson, D. D., whose eloquent and instructive lectures on Alaska attracted so much attention in Washington during the past winter, has recently brought out a book of 326 pages, entitled "Alaska and Missions of the North Pacific Coast."

Alaska is a suitable *quo incognita* to the vast majority of our people. Congressmen and citizens were alike astonished at the revelations of it contained in Dr. Jackson's lectures. The lectures were but a condensation of the book he then had in press. Those who read the book, therefore, will get all, and more than we got, who sat entranced at his marvelous narrative, which reminds one of nothing so much as the diary of those intrepid traders who first explored the great plains of the Platte and the valley of the Columbia.

The average American was disposed to think this Government was cheated, when in 1867, it paid Russia \$7,200,000 for Alaska. The same class find it difficult to believe that this purchase comprises an area of territory equal to the original thirteen States and the Great Northwest combined; a territory 2,200 miles long from east to west and 1,400 from north to south, with a coast line that would belt the globe. That its extreme western boundary is as far west of San Francisco as the eastern coast of Maine is east of that city. It is a pleasant surprise also to learn that its resources of timber, coal, iron, gold, &c., as well as furs, fish, and agricultural facilities, are so great as is stated by Dr. Jackson. We need only add that our author writes of what he has seen. His statements are reliable. They are also sustained by the records of public surveys and other authorities. The book is profusely illustrated and handsomely bound. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, publishers; and sold at \$1.50. Orders sent to THE COUNCIL FIRE will be promptly filled.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.
By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Dodd, Mead & Co.

There can be no question that a clear and well-written book on Alaska would be heartily welcomed, not only by the general reader but also by the large number of American Christians who watch with eager interest the progress of missionary effort in behalf of the heathen. We had hoped to find in Dr. Jackson's book just the sort of information that to the majority of American readers would be most acceptable, but we have been disappointed. There is indeed a general account of the character of the country, the manner of life and the peculiar customs of the native tribes are described with some minuteness, and the history of the various missions is given at considerable length; but the style of the writer is so uninteresting, his statements are so often obscure, and there is so much of unimportant or at least irrelevant matter, that it is by no means easy to acquire a clear conception of the facts which he aims to present. The volume has evidently been written with a view to awakening interest in Alaskan Missions, and we sincerely trust it may prove very useful in securing that very desirable end. A thorough revision by some competent hand would have made such a result much more certain. One thing is made very manifest by Dr. Jackson's work, and that is the need of missionary work in Alaska and the readiness of the natives to receive Christian teaching.

Christian Intelligence

New Publications.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully Illustrated. Cloth. 12mo. 327 pp. Price \$1.25. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

This book seems well calculated to supply the existing lack of popular information concerning this part of the American republic. The country, its extent, natural phenomena, resources, population, etc., are thoroughly discussed. The social and religious status of the people is minutely and graphically detailed and the present condition of missionary enterprises described. Old traditions and heathenish customs are presented and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is demonstrated, as its influence is traced in the modified and converted lives of these degraded savages. The illustrations are numerous and clear.

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. Fully Illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Company.

Christian enterprise furnishes us with this excellent volume upon the strangest, remotest, and wildest region of this vast Republic. No reader can fail to obtain from this book much definite information in regard to the climate, scenery, and geographical features of Alaska, as well as clear impressions in respect to the population, their mode of living, and what has been done and is doing for their enlightenment and elevation. So closely associated in these days are knowledge of the world we live in and the advancement of Christ's kingdom, that we may safely say that this book of Dr. Jackson's on Christian Missions in Alaska will do more to make this region known among the people of the country, than any other publication that has yet appeared.

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 23, 1880.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Alaska and North Pacific Missions.

The purchase of Alaska from Russia by the United States has provoked much discussion, which has resulted in a general belief that the acquisition is a valuable one. A systematic and specific account of that country, its extent, climate, geographical features and resources is greatly needed. It would be a valuable addition to our current literature, and undoubtedly a source of profit to its compiler. But the book published under the above title by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D., does not answer this description, and is worthless exactly in proportion as it is pretentious and unsatisfactory. More than half of the volume is devoted to Christian Missions. It is doubtless profitable to have books on such topics, but it is not morally profitable to give any book currency by false pretenses. "Alaska" is the leading and attractive title of this volume, and it is precisely because the information expected respecting this country is not here furnished, that the book is wanting in value, and that those who buy it will feel that they have been defrauded. It excites one's admiration to learn that "Alaska contains an area equal to the original thirteen States of the Union, with the great Northwestern Territory added;" that its extreme breadth from east to west is 2,400 miles, and from north to south 1,400 miles; and that its shore lines extend over 25,000 miles. And then comes a natural desire to learn something of this extensive country. What is its climate? That of only five places is noted, three of which are in nearly the same latitude. The river Yukon is said to be navigable for 1,500 miles, and to be 2,000 miles long. What is the character of the country through which it flows? Is it forest? Moor land? Grazing or agricultural? Not a word on these points. "Alaska is the great reserve lumber region of the United States." But where is this timber region, and how much is there of it, and of each kind? All that we are told is that there are "thousands of square miles of yellow cedar, white spruce, hemlock and balsam fir in the southeastern section of the country, a large portion of which is covered with dense forests." This is not entirely encouraging, inasmuch as a tract of forest only 60 miles square would fill the description of "several thousands of square miles," and we are elsewhere told that the Aleutian District, except at the eastern end, "is without timber larger than a shrub," and also of "prairies over which a traveler can steer for weeks without resting his gaze on aught save the dim verge of the ever-shifting horizon." We are informed, moreover, that the country between Norton Sound (which Sound is not named on the map contained in the book) and the Arctic Ocean is "a vast moor-land, whose level is broken only by promontories and isolated mountains, with numerous lakes, bogs and peat-beds." Where, then, are the immeasurable forests, the vast pastures, the tillable soil? An equal indefiniteness respecting Alaska pervades the whole

book. We cannot learn satisfactorily whether garden vegetables can be grown with general success in the most favorable localities. Even the fact that a cabbage weighing 27 pounds has been produced does not add a successful result to the statement that in the same locality "peas, carrots, onions, potatoes, etc., have been tried." We are not told whether there ever has been, is now, or is expected to be, any form of civilized government in Alaska, nor whether fishing, hunting, and the taking of furs are open to all, or, if restricted, how and to what extent. If one desired to engage in developing the "iron, graphite, marble, kaolin, gypsum, sulphur, amethysts, agates, cornelians and fossil ivory," which are said to abound in Alaska, he could not ascertain from this book in what localities any of these deposits are, or whether they are accessible or can probably be profitably worked.

We expected to find here some valuable ethnic facts. But such as there are of these are taken bodily, page for page, from Bancroft's *Native Races of the Pacific*. The compiler of the book we are reviewing tells us that some of the natives of Alaska are Eskimos. These, we know, do not belong to the American Indian family. What, then, are the rest of the native Alaskans? Are they American Indians? If not, are they Mongols? Have they any ethnic characteristics of language, tribal organization or institutions which identify them with any other race or races? It was Seneca, we think, who said that there is no book so bad that some good cannot be found in it. The one good thing we have found in this volume is a statement of the fact that the Alaska Commercial Company in the nine years from 1871 to 1880, paid to the United States Government \$2,500,000 for the privilege of taking furs in Alaska. This one fact is enough to show that Mr. Seward's purchase of that country was a profitable investment, notwithstanding the glittering generalities of this "scrappy" book.

The volume is illustrated with many engravings, most of which are unpleasantly suggestive of an adaptation from those in Dr. Kane's *Arctic Voyages*, and, in a great part, they are badly drawn, poorly engraved, and miserably printed. The best of them all is a steel engraving of the author, prefixed as a frontispiece, but there is nothing in the book to justify such a use of his photograph.

For sale at the bookstores.

Subscribed
Apr 15 1895

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, a traveler of some distinction, at least in the Presbyterian Church, has published a volume of exploration and adventure entitled "*Alaska and Missions on the North Pacific Coast.*" This interesting volume opens with what proves to be the subject of a liberal quota of the volume, namely, a portrait of the distinguished author. It is a good likeness. Sheldon looks as sleek as a mole. He has a far-away look, as if he were thinking to himself where he had better go next. The volume gives the author due credit for his labors and influence in the work of planting missions and in traveling from Alaska to Arizona to look after them—a very agreeable employment for those who have what are called "roving dispositions." The author compiles from published reports a very good account of the country, the climate, Indians, natural productions, and the estimate of its resources in timber, petroleum and the various metals. Also, a full account of the missions established by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. The estimate of the character of the Indians is higher than that given by Bancroft in his great work on the Native Races, or by any other authority that we have seen, and much higher than the recent accounts of savage wars among them would seem to justify. There is no doubt that the missionaries there, notably Mrs. McFarland, are doing a faithful and self-sacrificing work under great discouragements; as added to the natural degradation of the Indians, the incoming of rum and the vices of the traders and fishermen make the task more hopeless. The volume is well illustrated, and is from the press of Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

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 "Alaska, and Missions on the North Pacific Coast." By REV. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D. Fully Illustrated. NEW YORK: DODD, MEAD, & Co.

This book is a first-class contribution to the Missionary geographer. Its details cover an extent of territory equal to 2200 miles, in an air-line from East to West, and from 1400 miles from North to South. It is a book which proves that "San Francisco is the great *middle* city between the extreme East and West of the United States." The account it gives of its various tribes, their customs, houses, dances, feasts, religious beliefs, and Christian Missions amongst them, is very full, interesting and arousing. No Sunday School, Mission, or Geographical Library should be without it.

THE OCCIDENT.

SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9.

— Dodd & Mead, of New York, have just sent out two volumes which all interested in Christian missions, or in travels in lands but little known, will be glad to see. The first is Dr. Sheldon Jackson's volume on "*Alaska*," in which he gives a full account of missions on the north-west coast. Dr. Jackson gives the results of his own observations, and of a very careful investigation into the habits of the Indians of Alaska, which certainly reveals great ignorance and degradation. He writes, however, in the interest of these poor people, and in the hope that they may be civilized and enlightened, and therefore writes in behalf of missions among them, reciting what has been done, and the reasons for more diligent and extended work. Alaska is an immense territory, for which the citizens of this country have cared little up to this time. This book will make it better known.

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Alaska, by SHELDON JACKSON. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale by E. J. Goodrich.

A.

Since our country purchased Alaska from Russia, by paying \$7,200,000 about thirteen years ago, but little has been known or said of that vast territory which has been left almost wholly to the fur gatherers, miners, scientists and fishermen, with an occasional missionary penetrating its cheerless wastes or luxuriant wilds. The author of the above work has studied, in the capacity of a missionary, the climate, the boundless physical resources and the people of Alaska and has set forth the results of his travels and study and work, in that remote region, in a most valuable and entertaining volume. Many who read this book will be surprised to learn of the vast wealth of almost every description, that is stored up in Alaska, waiting to be developed; and many will be far more surprised to learn of the great number of human beings dwelling in what is usually supposed to be a desolate, uninhabited region. In spite of the noble work that has been done by the missions established in Alaska, the great majority of her population are still slaves to the most abject ignorance and superstition. There are many volumes of travels and missionary reports which come from the press that are dull and uninteresting. Not so with this book. It is handsomely gotten up and will be read with interest from beginning to end.

*London Illustrated
Missionary News.*

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ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully illustrated. [New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.] Cloth, 16mo., pp. 327. Price \$1.50. For sale by Estes and Lauriat, Boston.

We are glad that Dr. Jackson has found time to prepare this excellent volume on Alaska. His acquaintance with the missionary condition and needs of the West generally, and his special visit to Alaska under appointment of the government, well qualify him to tell what Christian people most desire to know about this intensely interesting portion of our land.

The first part of the volume is devoted to giving an account of the size and natural resources of the country, the characteristics of the population,

ALASKA AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Fully Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Publishers. Price \$1.50. For sale by Jansen, McClurg & Co.

This is the most interesting work upon Alaska we have yet read. This wonderful country hitherto so little known is the great island region of the United States. The traveler can enjoy an ocean voyage of over a thousand miles without getting out to sea and without sea-sickness, the trip being made through channels between the island and main land.

It is the region of the highest peaks of the United States and also of its

Dr. Jackson's New Book.

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Herald and Presbyterian.

CINCINNATI, OCT. 24, 1883.

AMONG THE ALASKANS By Julia McNair Wright, author of "Almost a Nun" and other well-known books. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication. For sale by the Western Tract Society, 176 Elm Street, Cincinnati. 16mo. Pp. 357. Price \$1.25.

Mrs. Wright is an industrious investigator—never writes without knowing, on mature investigation, what she is writing about. To the American people our newly acquired territory of Alaska, its character—geographically, topographically, geologically, and otherwise—and its future possibilities, is a subject of ever-growing interest. Then the character of the people there, the educational and missionary work in progress, are subjects of great interest to Christians—especially to Presbyterians, who are taking the lead there in Christian work. This last feature is the chief interest aimed at by this very interesting volume. Other matters written about, having an attraction of their own, are made subsidiary to the Christian aspect of the story, which, in all its particulars, is one of more than ordinary interest, and will do good just to the extent that it is read. It is a very neatly gotten up volume, prefaced with a map of Southeastern Alaska, and copiously illustrated with well-executed full-page representations of persons, localities, and other objects of interest.

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Editorial Rooms, New York Observer,

New York, March 7. 1883

Rev Dr Jackson:

My dear Brother

Please accept my
thanks for your volume on
Alaska which will be of
great service to us & which
I shall place in our library

Yours very truly

Edw. Prime

The Nation.

An International Idiom. A Manual of the Oregon Trade Language or Chinook Jargon.
By Horatio Hale. London: Whittaker & Co. 1890. Sm. 8vo, vi., 63 pp.

IN nearly all cases where commerce has sprung up between two nations having languages dis-

tinct in grammar and vocabulary, the necessities of the situation have led to the adoption of a jargon, *lingua franca*, or business language, for purposes of trade. Such are the "pidgin (business) English" of China, the Chinook jargon of the northwest coast of America, and the jargons in use by the whalers and traders in communicating with the Chukchi and Eskimo peoples on either shore of Bering Strait, and by these latter with each other. Such artificial languages have become permanent only in cases where one or both parties using them have not been numbered among civilized nations, and yet were too numerous or sturdy to disappear rapidly when brought into contact with aliens. That a jargon should be capable of pronunciation with clearness by both parties using it is obviously one condition of its existence. This leads to the elimination of all incompatible sounds from the words of either language which may be incorporated in it. A second condition is, that it shall be easily learned, and that a few words by compounding shall be made to express a variety of meanings. This leads to the elimination of inflections, conjugations, and declensions—in short, to the greatest possible simplification of grammatic forms. The words are derived from the languages of the traders concerned; the grammar, such as it is, has often little in common with either.

In the Bering Strait jargon the nouns are drawn from the Eskimo, English, Russian, and Hawaiian languages, and on the Asiatic side the Chukchi tongue contributes its share. A smaller number of words arise by onomatopoeia. The verbs on the American side were formerly largely of Russian derivation, but, with the increase in American trade since the transfer of Alaska to the United States, many English verbs have been added to or have supplanted the others. In the case of the Chinook jargon, American traders in the last century began the work on the Northwest coast. Here the native languages were numerous, very local, harsh and complex. As the harbor of Nootka was the headquarters of the traffic, some words of the Nootka dialect became known to the traders, while a few English words were rapidly picked up by the natives. As trade spread to other parts of the coast, the traders naturally tried to

communicate with the aborigines by means of the words which they had used at Nootka. The Chinooks soon acquired these words, both Nootka and English, and as early as 1804 they were found in use by the expedition of Lewis and Clarke to the mouth of the Columbia River. To these the English and Canadian French voyageurs of the Hudson Bay Company added others, and the Chinook dialect was drawn upon for numerals, some pronouns, adverbs, and prepositions.

The first scientific record of this jargon was made by the author of this volume as a member of Wilkes's expedition in 1841, when the total number of words was found to be about two hundred and fifty. Of these, eighteen were of Nootkan origin, forty-one English, thirty-four French, one hundred and eleven Chinook, ten onomatopoeic, and some thirty-eight of doubtful origin. The vocabulary of the language continued to develop. In 1863 the "Dictionary" of George Gibbs comprised nearly five hundred words. Those of Chinook origin had nearly, and those of French had more than, doubled, while some thirty-nine had been added from the Flathead dialects. Since that time the language has not materially changed; its use has widely extended, and numerous vocabularies have been printed. One issued at Victoria, in 1887, had reached its sixth edition, which proves the continued and widespread use of this international speech. There can be no doubt that it will remain a living and useful language as long as the native tribes continue to speak their own dialects. In British Columbia and southeastern Alaska it is the prevailing means of communication between whites and natives. These Indian tribes do not seem likely to die out. The jargon is in use for missionary purposes; hymns and sermons have been printed in it, so that it is beginning to possess a literature, and Dr. Hale finds reason to believe that it will still have its office to fulfil among the many-languaged tribes of this region for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years to come.

This little treatise was originally designed to form part of a larger work now deferred. It comprises a complete grammar and dictionary, with specimens of colloquial and narrative phrases, songs, hymns, a sermon, etc. That all this can be comprised in so small a space, for a language current among people in all stages of civilization, speaking more than twenty distinct languages, and diffused over a territory nearly half as large as Europe, seems marvellous indeed.

It is not necessary to state that the work has been performed in a manner commensurate with the reputation of the author. Even those who are not professed philologists will find the account of the formation and construction of

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the jargon interesting reading. The publishers have presented the volume in handy and attractive form, and it will no doubt have a wide field of usefulness.

Some friends of Missions have offered to donate a copy of my book on Alaska Missions to Western Presbyterian Sabbath Schools.

Please announce to your Presbytery that any Pres S.S. sending me 15cts for postage &c will receive a copy of the book by mail free.

Sheldon Jackson

Galesburg, Knox Co. Illinois

Rec^d 45 cts for 3 copies -

ALASKA. Missions on the North Pacific Coast. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, Publishers.

This is a book of great interest, especially to those interested in the cause of missions. Dr. Jackson is well known as the editor of the "Rocky Mountain Presbyterian," and the most indefatigable home mission worker in the Presbyterian church. He has immense pluck and endurance, and has traveled extensively over the whole western half of the continent. The doctor is not only a good traveler and explorer, but can well describe what he has seen, and the localities he has visited. With Alaska, our people on this coast are somewhat familiar; but we know just enough to wish to know much more. A large amount of reliable information can be found in this work, and not a few facts of interest to all classes. Alaska is rich in mines, and is the great fur-producing country of the continent. Our business men will be pleased to receive information concerning the commercial prospects of this land. The book, however, is largely taken up in giving an account of the Indians; their strange customs; their disposition; their practices and habits; and this will be interesting reading to all classes who are fond of travels; and Christian people will read with much pleasure the accounts of mis-

their customs and religious beliefs. The second part describes what has been, and is being done by our benevolent boards for these neglected peoples. The book contains the very valuable letters of Mrs. McFarland in the Rocky Mountain Presbyterian. The value of the work is greatly increased by its numerous (87) illustrations. We shall have occasion to refer to the work in another part of our paper: suffice it to say here that the book is one of intense interest to every Christian citizen.

Sheldon Jackson*

To the earnest and honest historian, the religious pioneer—the missionary of our Western frontiers—occupies a first place among the commanding factors in the development of our nation. The influence for progress of such far-seeing and indefatigable men as Marcus Whitman and Sheldon Jackson is simply beyond calculation. It is an all-round progress that they stand for—political, educational, moral, religious and all that these adjectives connote.

Whitman long since passed to his reward. Great as he was, his record is meager beside that of Sheldon Jackson, who still lives and labors, an absolutely unique force in American civilization. In energy, good sense, liberality and Christian fervor, he is a John Wesley—except that where Wesley traveled miles, Jackson travels them by hundreds and thousands. But there is a limit to our right to compare great men.

To write the life story of Jackson was to select and arrange a vast mass of detailed material, and it is not to be wondered at that Dr. Stewart has filled nearly five hundred closely printed pages. He has done his work for all time, for he has had the co-operative support of his hero and family, who placed at his disposal "all the data in their possession, including official records of his work, journals and memoranda of daily events, and the voluminous correspondence of fifty years." Much valuable material has also been gathered from over one hundred living former co-laborers of Dr. Jackson, and finally Dr. Stewart has stood in intimate relation to his subject for over thirty years.

That portion of the world, church or unchurched, who never heard of Sheldon Jackson, can hardly look for even a suggestive account of so titanic a pathfinder and constructor in a brief book notice. To select specimen achievements seems invidious and contracting. But take one phase—the development of Alaska. Jack-

*SHELDON JACKSON. By R. S. Stewart. F. H. Revell Company.

The Book Review Monthly. Jan. 1919

